



Daily Report

East Asia

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Tuesday
12 April 1988**

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UN ESCAP 44th Annual Session Convenes

Suharto Opens Meeting

BK110344 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0222 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Jakarta, April 11 (ANTARA)—President Suharto here Monday officially inaugurated the 44th annual session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

High on the agenda of the ten-day deliberations is the assessment of the growth performance of the region's developing economies, which averaged 6 percent in 1987.

More than 300 minister and senior officials from ESCAP's 47 member and associate member governments are attending the session.

Human Resources Emphasized

BK110828 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0724 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Jakarta, April 11 (ANTARA/OANA)—President Suharto has called upon each member country of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to strengthen its national resilience by means of developing its most decisive element, namely its human resources.

Opening the 44th session of ESCAP at Jakarta's Convention Hall Monday, the Indonesian head of state further emphasized that it is precisely these human resources that should be developed so as to become one of the principal assets in the implementation of development.

It is for this reason, therefore, that we hope ESCAP will concretely formulate an effective work programme in the field of human resources development oriented towards the widening of employment opportunities and the promotion of technology for development aimed at improving the quality of life for all peoples in this part of the world, he pointed out.

Moreover, in the implementation of development, Indonesia is well aware of the importance of the preservation of the environment, he said.

At the sub-regional level, the president added, together with other member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia has tried to reinforce regional resilience aimed at creating Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.

The head of state used the occasion to elaborate Indonesia's state ideology, Pancasila.

As the philosophy of the life of the nation and the state, President Suharto said Pancasila is a complete and harmonious unity of the values of Indonesia's life which the people regard as noble, and consequently would like to put them into practice in all aspects of the nation's life.

The values are the belief in the one supreme God, just and civilised humanitarianism, the unity of Indonesia, democracy led by the wisdom of deliberation amongst representatives or democracy imbued with Indonesia's own identity, and social justice for the whole of the people.

This philosophy of the life of Indonesia gives a deep significance to the life and development of the state and nation, President Suharto said.

With regard to labour force, the head of state said as a great challenge to development, it is necessary to adopt an integrated policy on human resources development that covers various aspects and aimed at enhancing the quality of life of the whole society. Specially referring to one of the depressing circumstances of the world today, President Suharto pointed to the protectionism adopted by a number of advanced industrialized countries.

Their protectionist policies greatly hampered the economic growth of the developing nations, because the export of the developing countries, which consist of both agricultural and industrial products, have very extensive significance, whether as the source of foreign exchange earnings, the provision of employment opportunities and the impetus for the people's improved income, he stressed.

The difficulties faced by a number of developing countries to repay their external debts constitute another major problem of its own, he added.

The debt issue, he went on, has for many developing nations become a very serious one because the impact of the developments in the world economy.

This impact is also reflected in the decrease of funds made available to the developing countries, mainly in the form of soft loans badly needed to maintain the momentum of development, the president pointed out.

The reactivation of the world economy requires concrete steps towards the creation of a new international economic order which has been agreed upon in the early seventies, he said.

Therefore, he continued, multilateral cooperation continues to play an important role in the relationship among states and nations.

And it is in this context that Indonesia supports the efforts for further trade liberation in tropical and agricultural products, which is being negotiated within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he stressed.

Indonesia, the president added, also welcomes the results of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in July last year.

In concluding his inaugural speech, the head of state hoped that this session would reach a common agreement to implement a programme of human resources development in the widest possible sense, at both the national and regional levels.

Executive Secretary Speaks

*BK110842 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0740 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Jakarta, April 11 (ANTARA/OANA)—Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) S.A.M.S. Kibria stated that people of Asia and the Pacific should examine all regional possibilities and potentials to improve the region's socio-economic condition.

Addressing the opening of the 44th session of ESCAP here Monday, Kibria said that various economic and social issues, especially human resources development should be discussed during the current session so that Asia and the Pacific would become a more productive and economically viable region.

During its current session, ESCAP will put into its agenda of discussion the issues of industry, agriculture, trade, transport, energy, water and mineral resources, environment, population as well as social development.

The ESCAP executive secretary also expressed the hope that all participants of this year's session would join an intensified pursuit of regional cooperation for development as set out in the mandates of the commission.

On the staging of the session in Indonesia, Kibria said that it reflected the country's commitment to the purposes and principles of UN Charter and to the objectives of ESCAP.

To last until April 20, the session officially opened by President Suharto at the Jakarta Convention Hall is participated in by 47 ESCAP member and associate member countries.

Economic Relations Examined

*BK111027 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0958 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Jakarta, April 11 (ANTARA-OANA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, upon assuming his duties as chairman of the current session of the UN

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) here Monday, appealed to all countries to restructure international economic relations.

All nations, developed and developing, rich and poor alike, should try their best to restructure international economic relations to the mutual benefit of all, the minister said.

It is in this context, he added, that the commission should play its role, trying thus to resolve the crucial economic and social problems of its member countries and accelerate the development process in the region.

Meanwhile, at the plenary session held at the Hotel Borobudur Intercontinental here, ESCAP also elected 18 vice chairmen for its current session which will last until April 20, including Mohammad A. Munim, finance minister of Bangladesh; Viliame Gonelevu, primary industries minister of Fiji; Narayan Dutt Tiwari, finance and commerce minister of India; Akoka Doi, foreign affairs minister of PNG; and Paul J. Tovua, economic planning minister of Solomon Islands.

Japan To Aid Activities

*OW111345 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Jakarta, April 11 KYODO—The Japanese Government will give up to 2.5 million U.S. dollars to increase activities of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), a Japanese Government official said Monday.

Takujiro Hamada, parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs and head of the Japanese delegation to the Jakarta ESCAP meeting, told the session the aid will be given through the Japan ESCAP Cooperation Fund in fiscal 1988.

More than 800 delegates from 38 countries are participating in 10-day meeting, the 44th of its kind, which opened Monday morning with a speech by Indonesian President Suharto.

Hamada emphasized Japan's involvement in human resources development, the theme of this year's gathering.

Japan has contributed to the "workshop on human resources development policy and planning for technology and development," which was held in Seoul last November.

The country also assisted ESCAP in holding a meeting of an expert group in Tokyo last December in order to formulate an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development.

Hamada called special attention to tourism, saying it also increases foreign currency earnings and creates employment opportunities which in turn contribute greatly to the economic growth of developing countries.

He cited the "1987 Visit Thailand Year," the Borobudur Temple and the Island of Bali in Indonesia as having contributed significantly to the economic growth of those countries.

He said Japan is also ready to host an ESCAP expert meeting on the development of tourism in the region in Japan this year, if one is desired.

ASEAN Meeting on Combating Drugs Ends
BK081400 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0953 GMT 8 Apr 88

[By A. Karim Shukor]

[Text] Singapore, April 8 (OANA-BERNAMA)—ASEAN will implement seven new joint projects to combat the drug menace in this region to be carried out within the next five years, it was decided by the grouping's senior officials on drug matters meeting here.

The director of the Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore Poh Geok Ek said after the four-day meeting which ended today that the proposed project costing U.S.\$5 million would be submitted to ASEAN Standing Committee for approval this year.

He said one project was to set up a training centre for law and enforcement officers where they would be trained in various aspects of combating the menace, including financial investigation.

Thailand was chosen because the officers can also have field training such as visiting the so-called Golden Triangle, he added.

Another project to be coordinated by Malaysia was on counselling and rehabilitation where officers will undergo two years' training and they were expected to train their own people at a later stage.

The third project was on study observation for youth leaders. These leaders would be trained to carry out campaigns to eliminate drug abuses among youths and it was to be coordinated by Brunei.

Project on development evaluation to be coordinated by Manila was to evaluate the drug trend in all ASEAN member countries, and Philippines would also handle follow-up on preventive measures.

Poh said that Singapore would handle research and training where workshops and seminars would be held from time to time for anti-drug officers.

Japan

Panel Rejects U.S. Liberalization Pressure

OW120439 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party's farm panel reconfirmed on Tuesday that it rejects a U.S. demand for Japan to remove import quotas on beef, oranges and orange juice, LDP officials said.

Koichi Kato, panel leader and one-time Defense Agency chief, told reporters his panel confirmed its view in the interests of Japanese farmers.

The LDP subcommittee on farm trade liberalization met at the party's head office in Tokyo to hear the views of a high-level official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, who is leaving for Washington later in the day.

Hidero Maki, director of the farm ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, told the panel session that his ministry will not succumb to U.S. pressures.

Farm Officials To Leave for U.S. 12 Apr

OW111115 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will send three senior officials to the United States Tuesday in a bid to break an impasse in a bilateral beef and citrus fruit import issue, ministry officials said Monday.

They said the trio are Hidero Maki, Akio Kyoya and Takashi Yoshikuni, director general respectively of the ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, Animal Industry Bureau and Agricultural Production Bureau.

They will reiterate Japan's established policy not to liberalize the import of these products in their meetings scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday with Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Michael Smith, they said.

But they are also expected to discuss possible conditions for eventual liberalization, such as timing and import surcharges — aimed at protecting domestic farmers — before returning home Saturday, they said.

The talks entered a new phase when the U.S. filed a complaint with the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) for the creation of a multilateral dispute panel at its extra council session in Geneva Friday.

But the 96-member body's council postponed a decision on the establishment of the panel until its next regular session May 4 because of Japan's request for further bilateral negotiations.

The government is hoping to reach a final decision by May 4 when Takashi Sato, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, visits Washington again after further negotiations with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and beef and citrus producers, who are firmly opposed to liberalization, the officials said.

Miyazawa Questions Baker's 'Commodity Basket'

OW120207 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said on Tuesday Japan will present a new scheme to resolve the debt problems of Third World countries to upcoming meetings of the Group of Seven (G-7) Western industrialized nations and to an interim committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But Miyazawa, who made the remarks at a regular press conference immediately after a cabinet meeting, did not elaborate on the details of the scheme.

The top financial official is to attend G-7 and IMF meetings in Washington from Wednesday, together with Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita.

Miyazawa indicated that G-7 nations will agree on a macroeconomic surveillance plan using the commodity basket proposed by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, saying "all the members of G-7 share a common understanding of Baker's plan."

He went on to say, however, that the name of the game is whether the commodity basket plan is actually practical. "Right now we are dealing with the theoretical side of the plan," he added.

"Japan," Miyazawa said, "is ready to shoulder more than its due share in resolving the Third World debt issues through international organizations like IMF, which was established to implement this objective."

Responding to a question about the agenda at the coming G-7 and IMF meetings, Miyazawa denied the possibility of new policies being introduced to avoid a further decline of the U.S. dollar.

"G-7 finance ministers and central bankers will see nothing new in the agenda. The objective of last December's G-7 joint statement has been successfully achieved," he said.

But Miyazawa refused to comment on whether the G-7 statement anticipates a currency range or not.

Secrets Transfer Agreement Signed With U.S.
OW120301 Tokyo KYODO in English 0248 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Japan and the United States signed an agreement Tuesday providing Japan with access to U.S. patented military secrets for security purposes.

The information is being provided on condition that Japan keeps it confidential, the government said.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield signed the accord which came into force immediately. The two countries also exchanged diplomatic documents on details.

The U.S.-supplied military technology will remain classified for nonmilitary purposes.

The agreement will pave the way for Japan to acquire a vast amount of U.S. technology to develop its next mainstay support fighter, codenamed FSX. Japan and the United States have agreed to jointly develop the FSX based on the U.S. F-16 fighter.

U.S. Aircraft Carrier Returns to Yokosuka
OW111301 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Yokosuka, Kanagawa Pref., April 11 KYODO—The U.S. aircraft carrier Midway returned to its base port Monday after an absence of six months.

The 67,000-ton flattop had participated in the Team Spirit'88 joint military drill with South Korean forces off the Korean Peninsula after patrolling in the Indian Ocean.

Last Saturday, LaSalle, the flag carrier of the navy's Mideast fleet, arrived for repairs.

The Midway is to be docked in the Yokosuka base port until June for regular maintenance checks, and will then be assigned to patrol off the Korean Peninsula during the Seoul Olympics this summer.

Local groups of atomic bomb survivors lodged a complaint with the commander of the U.S. Forces in Japan in protest against resumption of nightly takeoff and landing practices at the Atsugi Air Base by Midway-borne fighters and against report work on the LaSalle.

Takeshita Meets PRC Delegation Head
OW120515 Tokyo KYODO in English 0456 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Tuesday he wants to meet with senior leader Deng Xiaoping, Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang and new Premier Li Peng when he visits China in late August.

He made the comment to Zhang Xiangshan, Chinese chief delegate at the Japan-China Friendship 21st Century Committee, in a meeting at the prime minister's official residence, according to a Foreign Ministry official who briefed reporters on the meeting.

During a 25-minute conversation, Zhang, adviser to the International Liaison Department of the party and vice president of the China-Japan Friendship Association, said the Chinese Government and the party will warmly welcome Takeshita's visit to China slated for August 26-30.

Zhang said China will also welcome Masayoshi Ito, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Executive Council and a former foreign minister, who is due to visit China in mid-April as a special envoy of the prime minister.

Zhang assumed the post of Chinese chief delegate of the committee in March, replacing Wang Zhaoguo, who became governor of Fujian Province.

Zhang told Takeshita that he will make efforts to ensure the success of the committee's meeting by cooperating with Tadao Ishikawa, chief Japanese delegate on the committee.

Zhang apologized for a train collision near Shanghai on March 24 in which a Japanese teacher and 26 students from Kochi Gakugei High School in Kochi Prefecture were killed, and said China was responsible for the incident.

China is trying to learn lessons from the accident and making efforts to avoid the suspension of youth exchanges with Japan, Zhang said.

Zhang has been here on a 12-day visit since April 2 to attend a three-day symposium held in Tokyo April 4-6.

The establishment of the bilateral committee was agreed between then-Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone and then party chief Hu Yaobang during Hu's visit to Japan in December 1983. It was inaugurated in March 1984 when Nakasone visited China.

Takeshita Meets Austrian Delegation
*OW111219 Tokyo KYODO in English 0739 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told a delegation of the Bundestrat (Federal Council) of Austria on Monday that he hopes bilateral relations between Japan and Austria will be strengthened.

The six-member group, of which five are legislators led by Herbert Schambeck, chairman of the Bundesrat, paid a courtesy visit to Takeshita at the prime minister's official residence, a Foreign Ministry official said in a briefing.

During a 30-minute talk, Schambeck was quoted as saying 1989 will be the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and that the event should be marked by state- and parliamentary-level exchanges.

Takeshita said he would be delighted because a delegation from Austria's Nationalrat (National Council) also visited Japan from late February to early March this year.

The prime minister told the mission it is important for both countries to promote top-level exchanges. The Austria group asked Takeshita to visit the country, the official said.

Takeshita also said he also hopes industrial cooperation between the countries will be strengthened.

Walter Strutzenberger, Jurgen Weiss, Peter Koepf and Manfred Mautner-Markhof are among the delegation.

The delegation arrived here Sunday on a weeklong visit at the invitation of Masaaki Fujita, president of the House of Councillors. The delegation is to visit Hiroshima, Kyoto and Osaka.

Nuclear Research Accord Signed With FRG
*OW111311 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—The Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI) announced Monday the conclusion of an agreement with its West German counterpart on participation in the latter's safety experiment on a new type of nuclear reactor using high-temperature gas, known as AVR.

The announcement said that under the agreement with the Nuclear Research Center (KFA), the JAERI will let four researchers take part in the test simulating a loss-of-coolant accident and activity discharge during depressurization.

It said the KFA plans the closure of the AVR reactor, with a thermal output of 46,000 kilowatts, at the end of this year after 12 years of operation.

The step is being taken since the JAERI is planning development of a similar research reactor with a thermal output of 30,000 kilowatts, officials said.

Using helium as a coolant, the AVR reactor is very safe, they said.

JSP Leader Hopes To Visit S. Korea
*OW111233 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Osaka, April 11 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party leader Takako Doi reaffirmed Monday that she is looking forward to visiting South Korea at an early date.

Doi, in a speech at a lecture session here, said she regrets that she cannot say when she is going to Seoul.

The No.1 opposition party, changing its decades-long anti-Seoul attitude after the February 25 inauguration of President No Tae-u, has declared that it is promoting ties with Seoul.

South Korea, however, says it will not allow JSP Diet members to enter the country unless the party clearly changes its anti-Seoul policy.

Doi due to leave May 4 for an eight-day visit to the Soviet Union, said she will engage in a frank exchange of views with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on nuclear disarmament.

Doi said she will discuss how to scale down or eliminate sea-launched nuclear weapons which are excluded from the 1987 superpower treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear force (INF) weapons.

The JSP leader is scheduled to meet Gorbachev on May 6.

Japan To Extend Yen Aid to Burma
*OW111209 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Japan will provide Burma with 1.1 billion yen in grant aid to help improve medical, educational and grain storage facilities, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The two countries exchanged diplomatic notes on the Japanese assistance in Rangoon Monday, officials said.

Loans for Oversea Investment Soar

OW111239 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Loans for overseas investment committed by the Export-Import Bank of Japan in fiscal 1987 soared 10 times from the previous year as Japanese manufacturers actively shifted production bases abroad in the wake of the sharp appreciation of the yen, the government bank said Monday.

The bank's total loans—including trade finance—committed in the fiscal year ended March 31 amounted to 1,405.6 billion yen, up 36 percent from the preceding fiscal year. Loans for general overseas investment totaled 244.8 billion yen compared with 24.6 billion yen for fiscal 1986.

The overall lending was the second highest annual figure ever after the 1,620.1 billion yen committed in fiscal 1981. Loans for manufactured goods imports soared 39 percent to 119.1 billion yen, while those for plant exports were sluggish, bank officials said.

Bank President Takashi Tanaka told a press conference that Japan's active shift of manufacturing bases to overseas should be very effective in helping the economies of developing countries and this trend would be further promoted.

Untied loans—not tied to purchases from specific sources—also jumped 38 percent to 466.7 billion yen, reflecting Japan's increased economic cooperation projects.

Tanaka said loans under the government's so-called 20 billion dollar Japanese surplus fund recycling plan went smoothly in fiscal 1987, with his bank extending a total of 3.94 billion dollars in 15 aid projects.

Trade Surplus Marks First Drop in 6 Years

OW111111 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO—Japan's trade surplus shrank to 76,015 million dollars in fiscal 1987 from the previous year's 89,736 million dollars for the first decrease in six years, the Finance Ministry announced Monday.

The ministry said the nation's exports in fiscal 1987, ended last month, totaled a record 237,997 million dollars on a free-on-board (FOB) basis, up 10.6 percent from fiscal 1986, while imports amounted to 161,982 million dollars—also a new annual record—on a cost, insurance and freight (CIF) basis, up 29.2 percent.

The resultant 76,015 million dollar surplus was down 15.3 percent or 13,721 million dollars from fiscal 1986 and also was the first decrease since fiscal 1981, it said, attributing the decline on the sharp growth of imports.

Of the fiscal 1987 black-ink figure, Japan's surplus with the United States accounted for 50,853 million dollars, compared with the previous year's 51,998 million dollars.

The ministry also said Japan's trade surplus in March dropped 7.4 percent from a year ago to 7,458 million dollars, marking a year-to-year decline for the 11th consecutive month.

Exports in March increased 17.4 percent from the same month of fiscal 1986 to 22,665 million dollars, while imports expanded 35 percent to a record 15,207 million dollars.

Imports of manufactured products accounted for 47.6 percent of total imports in the month, down slightly from 48.7 percent in February.

It is the first time since fiscal 1982 that Japan's exports to the United States have recorded a year-to-year decrease.

Japan's trade surplus with the European Community, however, increased to 20,115 million dollars in fiscal 1987 from 18,228 million dollars the previous year. Likewise, the surplus with Southeast Asia expanded to 14,818 million dollars from the preceding year's 14,546 million dollars.

Ministry officials said the sharp import increase in fiscal 1987 reflected rising imports of manufactured goods and higher oil import bills as a result of the recovery of the international crude oil market.

They said the smaller surplus in fiscal 1987 indicates that the basic structure of Japan's external trade is undergoing a dramatic change stemming from ongoing efforts among industrialized nations to realign exchange rates as part of their policy coordination.

Exports of automobiles, which usually account for about 20 percent of Japan's overall exports, decreased 6.1 percent in volume in fiscal 1987 as their export prices went up due to the yen's appreciation against the dollar. They showed an identical 6.1 percent increase in value, however.

Ship exports plunged 32.3 percent from the previous year and video tape recorders registered a 15.5 percent fall.

But exports of office automation equipment, mainly computers, showed a 28.1 percent rise while electronic parts, principally semiconductors, scored a 32.1 percent growth.

In the import sector, crude oil and naphtha increased 29.2 percent from fiscal 1986 and oil products 65 percent.

The share of manufactured goods in overall imports rose to 45.6 percent in fiscal 1987 from 44.1 percent in the preceding fiscal year.

Increased Imports Depresses Fishing Industry
*OW120447 Tokyo KYODO in English 0127 GMT
12 Apr 88*

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—A sharp increase in imports of fishery products due to the yen's prolonged strength is depressing Japan's fishing industry, according to an annual fishery report submitted Tuesday to the cabinet.

The report, prepared by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, stressed the need to protect the interests of Japanese fishermen by achieving cost competitiveness through the streamlining of domestic distribution channels.

It said the development of fresh, good quality products and new regional products are also necessary to this end.

The imports of fishery products have been on a rising trend since 1981, and in 1986 they hit an all-time high of 1.87 million tons, up 18 percent from 1985.

Although the value decreased in yen terms to some 1,137.7 billion yen, it totaled 6.8 billion dollars, up a whopping 38 percent in dollar terms from 1985, the report said.

"Overall, the sharp increase in the imports eased the balance of demand and supply in Japan, and at the same time it has affected the prices of the domestic products," the report pointed out.

With consumer demand appearing to have hit the ceiling and with an increase in the imports of fishery products thought to be unavoidable, a price increase in fishery products is unlikely, the report predicted.

Diet Resumes Business After Accord on Tax Cut
*OW120921 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700 GMT
12 Apr 88*

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The Diet (parliament) resumed business Tuesday after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party promised a tax cut during fiscal 1988, which started April 1.

The Diet has been stalled since Friday as the opposition boycotted all committee sessions to press its demand for a clear response from the LDP for a plan to cut income tax, corporate tax and inheritance tax.

Kozo Watanabe, chairman of the LDP Diet Affairs Committee, in a meeting with his counterparts from three major opposition parties, promised that the government will reduce taxes as called for by the opposition camp, LDP officials said.

The LDP and opposition parties agreed to have talks between their policy officials to decide the size and timing of the tax cut, the sources said.

The Japan Socialist Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party have called for a 2.94 trillion yen tax cut.

Takeshita Meets LDP Elders
*OW120941 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT
12 Apr 88*

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita assured eight Liberal Democratic Party elders on Tuesday that he will cautiously tackle major tax reform while heeding the public's sentiment on the controversial issue, LDP sources said.

Takeshita also promised to allow government and party tax panels enough time to work out a reform plan acceptable to the broad populace, the sources said.

Former Prime Ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone, Zenko Suzuki and Takeo Fukuda were among the eight party elders who attended the 70-minute session at Takeshita's official residence.

LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe and Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi also joined Takeshita in the session.

However, former Prime Minister Takeo Miki and former House of Representatives Speaker Kenji Fukunaga missed the session because of illness.

Suzuki called for a prompt settlement of the beef and citrus trade dispute through bilateral talks with the United States, while Fukuda argued for increasing Japan's foreign assistance, the sources said.

Takeshita also briefed the advisers about the Japan-U.S. farm talks and his upcoming trips to Europe later this month and Canada in June for the annual summit of seven major advanced democracies, they said.

Tuesday's meeting was Takeshita's second such session with elders since he came to power last November.

Mongolia

Newly Elected PRC Leaders Congratulated

Batmonh Sends Greeting Message
*OW120110 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] Mongolian President Jambyn Batmonh has sent a message of greeting to Chairman of the People's Republic of China Yang Shangkun [title as heard] in connection with his election to the high post. The Mongolian

leader expressed his confidence that friendly relations between the two socialist countries will further develop and expand in the interests of peace and cooperation in Asia and the world over.

Batmonh has also congratulated Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Wan Li on his election to this post.

Sodnom Greets Li Peng

*OW120509 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1425 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 11 Apr (MONTSAME)—Dumaagiyn Sodnom, chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers, has sent a congratulatory telegram to Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, in connection with his appointment to this high post.

The telegram expresses confidence that the good-neighboring and friendly relations between our two countries and people will expand and develop.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Peace Problems

*OW101401 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 8 Apr 88*

[Text] In connection with the ongoing Asia Week, the national daily UNEN carries an interview with Mongolian Deputy Foreign Minister Yondon. He said that as a result of major peace initiatives of the socialist countries and their practical realization, and the signing of the INF Treaty as well as many other agreements on peace and security, positive tendencies have taken shape in the world as a whole and in the Asia-Pacific region in part.

Understanding of the necessity of uniting efforts for developing broader cooperation and connective settlement of problems is growing in this area. In the (?post-nuclear) space age peaceful coexistence has become the sole condition for human survival. That is why it is necessary to ban forever the use of war as a means of resolving disputed questions, the deputy minister said. In other words, the creation of a mechanism excluding the use of force in the relations among the regional states will in the final end depend on the Asian states themselves, Yondon underlined.

North Korea

Rallies Denounce 'Team Spirit,' U.S. 'Scheme'

*SK121041 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT
12 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—Mass rallies and soldiers meetings supporting the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army were held recently in Cholwon County, Kangwon Province, at the Nakwon machine complex in North Pyongan Province, the Pyongyang cornstarch factory, the Unha cooperative

farm in Yangdok County, South Pyongan Province, in Chongdan County, South Hwanghae Province, and at the unit of the Korean People's Security Forces to which Comrade Sim Chol-pong belongs.

The speakers sternly denounced with bitter national resentment the "Team Spirit 88" joint military maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, saying that the maneuvers are run through with attack operations simulating northward invasion, their aggressive nature has become undisguised, "rising to the highest tide," and they are leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to a more acute phase.

The U.S. imperialists openly revealed their scheme to leave huge armed forces in and around South Korea after the current war maneuvers under the pretext of "safe opening" of the Olympics, the speakers noted, and added: The aggressors who are engrossed in frantic war moves will face deserving punishment. It is foolish of the U.S. imperialists to threaten us with armed forces, resorting to the policy of "strength", they said, and warned: The warmaniacs should admit their crimes and stop running riot.

CPRF Criticizes Davis Remarks on Olympics

*SK111017 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in its information No. 459 issued on April 10 branded the criminal moves of the U.S. imperialists to use the Olympics for their aggressive aim as a wanton violation of peace and the idea of the Olympic movement, a vicious challenge to the North which is making sincere efforts to turn the situation on the Korean peninsula this year favourably to peace and reunification of the country.

Recalling that commander of the U.S. forces in Japan James Davis, on April 7 prattled that he was ready to dispatch the U.S. forces in Japan to South Korea "any moment" for the "safe hosting of the Seoul Olympics" and the U.S. forces stationed in the Philippines "might be dispatched" if requested by the South Korean "Government," the information continues:

This reveals more clearly the criminal attempt of the U.S. imperialists to turn the Olympics, a festival of peace, friendship and solidarity, into a war ground at any cost.

The U.S. imperialists are crying as if their frantic arms buildup and war manoeuvres are necessary because of someone's "disturbance of Olympics", but it is aimed at igniting a war of aggression in case the colonial rule faces a crisis before and after the Olympics, and shifting responsibility for it onto us.

However, the U.S. imperialists' criminal moves to make the Olympic games serve a war purpose can never be tolerated.

The U.S. imperialists must give up arms buildup and war preparations against the North and get out of South Korea at once, taking along their aggression troops and all destruction weapons.

Menetrey Reveals 'Scheme To Provoke' War
SK111019 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—Menetrey, commander of the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, on April 9 blared that "military cooperation" between the United States and the South Korean puppets "is vital" and that the United States would "render greatest possible support" for the "successful opening of the Seoul Olympic games" according to a report.

He was addressing a "consolatory banquet" for the ruffians of the aggressive forces participating in the "Team Spirit 88" joint military maneuvers.

This was an aggressor's blast revealing the criminal scheme to provoke a war against the North on the occasion of the "Seoul Olympics" and an open challenge to us who are making every effort for peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification.

The U.S. imperialists must act with discretion, mindful that they will meet a thousand-fold retaliatory blow, if they venture the provocation of a war, ignoring our repeated warnings and stern denunciation by the world peaceloving people.

Papers Condemn U.S. Olympic Security Planning
SK100849 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0034 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today denounce the U.S. imperialists' military threat and blackmail under the plea of "safe Olympic hosting."

Recalling that commander of the U.S. forces in Japan Davis, clamouring about "safe Olympic hosting" on April 8, prattled that the naval and air forces of the U.S. imperialist aggressors in Japan would be hurled into South Korea "any moment" and U.S. forces stationed in the Philippines might be dispatched, if necessary, a signed commentary of NODONG SINMUN says:

This is a fit of extreme war hysteria and a military threat and blackmail and an undisguised demonstration of strength the imperialists are apt to resort to on the eve of declaring a war against other country.

This frenzied arms buildup suggests that the U.S. imperialists, while going ahead with the "Team Spirit" test nuclear war without an interruption, intend to invent a pretext, timing to coincide with the period of the Olympic games, and, under that pretext, ignite an adventurous war of aggression against the North in the end.

The Korean people are following them with heightened vigilance and getting fully ready to counter any aggression.

The U.S. imperialists must give up at once the arms buildup and war racket against the North and withdraw their troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and areas around it.

Daily Decries Tokyo's Olympic 'Reinvasion' Plan
SK120517 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary lashes out at the Japanese reactionaries' scheme to stretch the talons of reinvasion deeper into South Korea on the pretext of "cooperation" for "security" of the Olympics.

The Japanese reactionaries are making haste with arrangements to hold a "meeting of ministers in charge of public peace" in the Asian-Pacific region in Tokyo in June to discuss "measures against international terrorism" with the Olympics ahead, and are trying to send "patrol boats" into the East Sea of Korea to "watch."

Commenting on this, the author says:

They intend to fling the door wider open for reinvasion through the traitor No Tae-u on the plea of "cooperation" for the "security" of the Olympics.

Under the signboard of the "Olympic security" they scheme to keep tight hold on the traitor No Tae-u, create "two Koreas" by freezing the division of Korea, arrest the actions of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification and stretch their tentacles of reinvasion deeper into South Korea.

Their plan to convene a "meeting of ministers in charge of public peace" to discuss "measures against international terrorism" in Tokyo in June is also an intrigue to have their insidious moves "internationally recognized."

Such moves of the Japanese reactionaries are an unpardonable challenge to the entire Korean people who aspire after independence and democracy of the South Korean society and after peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

The Japanese reactionaries should stop support to and cooperation with the traitor No Tae-u and take hands of reinvasion off South Korea.

Daily Assails No Group's Plan 'To Ignite' War
SK120515 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—NODONG SIMMUN today denounces the No Tae-u group for scheming to ignite a war against the North on the plea of the Olympics.

The traitor No Tae-u in his recent "press statement" cried that not only the puppet army and the "homeland defence reserve force" but also all the inhabitants should be "on the alert," talking volubly about "provocation" by somebody on the threshold of the Olympics, and even showed himself up at a ground of war exercise to incite war fever, a signed commentary of the daily notes, and says:

This is a revelation of the puppets' intention to take the road to confrontation and war against the DPRK at any cost by taking advantage of the U.S. imperialists' policies of war.

It is very ill-boding that the traitor No Tae-u let loose bellicose outbursts here and there at the time when the aggressive "Team Spirit 88" joint manoeuvres are being staged.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique never open their mouths without clamoring about the danger of "provocation" by somebody, as if they were doing that to cope with it. This is, indeed, a cock-and-bull story.

The glib talk of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets about "provocation" on the pretext of the Olympics is a fiction deliberately invented by them to find a pretext for a war against the DPRK.

Our people do not want war but will never pardon the aggressors' provocation moves to invade our country.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique must look straight at the trend of the times and stop running riot.

CPRF Publishes Questionnaire on No's 'Crimes'
SK021531 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland on April 1 published an open questionnaire denouncing the never-ceasing treacherous crimes the No Tae-u group is committing, putting the garb of "legitimacy" on the present "regime."

Asking if a "regime" framed up through election frauds unparalleled in history could be a "legitimate regime," the questionnaire says:

No Tae-u actually lost the "election" last year, if the more than 4 million ballots rigged by him were taken off from the 8 million claimed to have been cast for him.

Therefore, he must answer the question if this could be called his "election" and his "regime" devoid of "legitimacy" be called a "regime."

Noting that the traitor No Tae-u managed to secure only 36 percent of the votes in the "presidential elections," the questionnaire asks if such 36-percent "president" could be called a president and the "regime" whose origin is traced to a military coup and whose key posts are held by military gangsters be called a civilian government. He must answer this question, urges the questionnaire.

The questionnaire continues:

The "Democratic Justice Party" practised gangsterism, railroading through the puppet National Assembly singlehanded, with the opposition members shut out, an "amendment bill on the law of National Assembly elections" and the "bill on the state advisory council of elders". Yet, can he talk about "democratic politics"?

It is the South Korean reality today that the students and people of all strata fighting for an end to the military rule and democratisation are savagely suppressed at the point of the bayonet. Isn't the talk about "politics free from violence" a lie?

He must give an honest answer to these questions, too.

In South Korea the overwhelming majority of people are more manhandled and fleeced than before and face merciless repression, if they demand an elementary right to live and democracy. Yet, can the military dictator turn "an ordinary man" and herald "an era of ordinary people"? He must give an apprehensible answer to this question.

No Tae-u is entreating for a permanent presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea and insisting that the "prerogative" of the puppet army supreme command should remain in their hand and the South Korean students brand the U.S.-South Korea relationship as one "between master and servant." Can flunkeyist treacheries and "self-respect of the nation" be compatible? Clear is the answer to this question. But the puppets would find it hard to give this answer.

Asking if the traitor No Tae-u could talk about peace while building up arms and intensifying such war games as the "Team Spirit 88" joint manoeuvres, could mumble about "peaceful unification" while refusing North-South dialogue or could enforce "an upright policy," himself being the chieftain of corruption, the questionnaire urges No Tae-u to make clear his stand toward these questions, too.

The above questions cannot be left unanswered, remarks the questionnaire.

The open questionnaire says:

If the traitor has a shred of conscience, he should openly apologize to the South Korean and world people and step down without delay, frankly admitting that his "regime" is illegitimate and all his "commitments" so far were lies and hypocrisy to claw his way to power.

Officials, Others Discuss North-South Talks
SK120459 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—A forum of politicians, scholars and pressmen on the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference was held at the People's Palace of Culture on April 11 upon the lapse of 100 days since the great leader President Kim Il-song advanced the proposal.

Present there were Ho Chong-suk, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, and other senior cadres.

A report and speeches were made at the forum.

The reporter and speakers said that the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference is a most realistic and just save-the-nation proposal to remove the danger of a war and military and political confrontation between North and South and open a new phase of national reconciliation and unity and proved this with the four points to be put on the agenda at the North-South joint conference.

To solve the question of stopping the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and other large-scale manoeuvres and the question of arranging multinational disarmament talks, they said, would be a practical step to remove the danger of war and military tension and open a phase of national reconciliation and unity.

Noting that the South Korean puppets are scheming to host the Olympic games close at hand single-handedly with the intention to use it for legalizing "two Koreas" in the international community and inciting confrontation between the North and the South, they said: Under this condition, the co-hosting of the 24th Olympic games is a preferential question of principle related to national reconciliation and unity.

They stressed that ending slanders and abuses between the North and the South is also a pressing question in removing the political confrontation.

Noting that even a preliminary meeting has not yet been opened though 100 days have passed since the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference

was put forward, they said this is entirely attributable to the anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti-reunification stand of the South Korean authorities.

They said:

The South Korean authorities should behave with discretion, looking straight into the situation. If they truly want dialogue, detente and reunification, they should immediately respond to our proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference.

Kim Chong-il Present at SPA Opening
SK050840 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT
5 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 5 (KCNA)—The Third Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea opened here today.

The great leader President Kim Il-song was present at the session.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was present, too.

The session discusses "on the results of the fulfilment of the state budget for 1987 and on the state budget for 1988 of the DPRK."

Further on Messages Sent to PRC Officials

Kim Il-song Greets Deng Xiaoping
SK101011 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1200 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Deng Xiaoping in connection with his reelection as chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission.

The message reads:

Beijing:

Comrade Deng Xiaoping:

I extend most fervent congratulations to you in connection with your reelection as chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission at the First Session of the Seventh PRC National People's Congress [NPC] in following the high respect and confidence of the Chinese people and the officers and men of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Our people rejoice over the fact that the First Session of the Seventh NPC is successfully continuing amid the Chinese people's vigorous acceleration of constructing socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics after having attained the stability and unity of the country since the 3d Plenary Meeting of 11th CPC Central Committee.

I sincerely wish new success in your responsible work for the glory and prosperity of China, and for the reunification of the entire country, as well as your good health and longevity.

I firmly believe that the fraternal kindred friendship and militant unity forged between the people and armies of the two countries of Korea and China, through the common struggle against imperialism and for the independence, sovereignty, and triumph of the cause of socialism will be further consolidated and develop with each passing day.

[Signed] Kim Il-song

[Dated] 8 April 1988, Pyongyang

Kim Il-song Greets New Leaders
SK101017 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1200 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Yang Shangkun and Comrade Wan Li in connection with their respective elections as president of the PRC and chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC NPC.

The congratulatory message reads:

Beijing:

Comrade Yang Shangkun, president of the PRC;

Comrade Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC NPC;

Rejoicing over the election of Comrade Yang Shangkun as president of the PRC and Comrade Wan Li as chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC NPC at the First Session of the Seventh NPC of the PRC, I, on behalf of the DPRK Government and the Korean people, and on my own behalf, extend most fervent congratulations to you.

These elections to these high responsible state posts at the First Session of the NPC is a clear expression of the Chinese people's deep trust in you and respect for you.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish new success in your future work to construct a modernized socialist country with Chinese characteristics and to unify the entire country.

I firmly believe that the traditional fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation between the Korean and Chinese peoples, which have been firmly sealed through a protracted revolutionary struggle for the realization of the common goal and ideal, will further expand and develop with each passing day.

[Signed] Kim Il-long, president of the DPRK

[Dated] 8 April 1988, Pyongyang

Yi Kun-mo Congratulates Li Peng
SK100839 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—Yi Kun-mo, premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings on April 9 to Comrade Li Peng upon his appointment as premier of the State Council at the First Session of the Seventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

The message said that the appointment of Comrade Li Peng as premier of the State Council at the Seventh National People's Congress of China was an expression of deep trust of the Chinese party, the government and the people.

It heartily wished him great success in his responsible work to accelerate the building of socialist modernisation of the country, unify the whole country and further consolidate the international position of the country.

It expressed the belief that the fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation sealed in blood between the Korean and Chinese peoples will continue to favourably strengthen and develop generation after generation.

Further Reportage on Visit of Norodom Sihanouk

Expresses Solidarity at Banquet
SK081050 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arranged a banquet today at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in honour of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea.

Speaking at the banquet, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk said he would like to sincerely express regards with sentiments of highest reverence and gratitude to his excellency Marshal Kim Il-song, head of state of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, for the very kind and grand welcome accorded him, on behalf of the Kampuchean people, the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea and on his own.

He said:

Just as I have annually done so already from long ago, so in the years ahead, too, even after Kampuchea, my homeland, has been completely liberated, I will regard it as the highest glory and most pleasant duty always to come to Pyongyang, the most dignified capital of the DPRK, so beautiful and developed, to extend warmest glory to Your Excellency, the respected and great leader

of the Korean people and the Korean nation, in the name of the Khmer people and government and head of state, on the occasion of your most glorious birthday.

It is the greatest happiness in my life that Your Excellency, the great leader, treat me kindly as your intimate friend, real brother and close anti-imperialist comrade-in-arms, fully supporting all the patriotic activities and struggle that I have been waging from long ago.

I will remember for life the matchlessly deep benevolence shown by your excellency, the great leader, for myself and my wife, my family and the several national liberation struggles of the Kampuchean people.

I have always cherished and will cherish for ever, in the future, too, boundless respect and reverence for Your Excellency Marshal Kim Il-song, head of state of Korea and the great leader of the Korean nation.

The so prominent august name of Your Excellency Marshal Kim Il-song, the immortal sun, will shine for ever in gold letters not only in the history of Korea spanning thousands of years but also in human history.

Your Excellency Marshal Kim Il-song with brilliant intelligence and noble heroism waged from your early years the struggle to liberate the Korean people from feudal domination and foreign imperialist subjugation, won legendary victories twice and converted in a historically short span of time the socialist, popular and democratic country into a genuine paradise on earth where the Korean people and youth lead a dignified life full of boundless happiness and enjoy prosperity so envied by the world people.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has become a great invincible military power and a very developed modern country with all spheres of *chuche*-oriented socialist construction equipped with no less sophisticated technologies than other developed powers of the world.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk continued:

The world people, especially the people of Kampuchea and other Third World countries cherish invariably deep reverence for the great leader Your Excellency Marshal Kim Il-song, the brilliant sun teaching mankind the *chuche* idea and independence.

The authority and popularity of the great leader Your Excellency Marshal Kim Il-song are unprecedentedly high and great in this world.

The Kampuchean people, the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea and I deem it the highest honour to join the fraternal, valiant Korean people and the people of all countries of the world so deeply revering Your Excellency Marshal Kim Il-song in extending warmest congratulations to Your Excellency great leader

with deepest respect on the occasion of the most auspicious spring holiday of April, the 76th birthday of Your Excellency, the respected great leader of the Korean people and the Korean nation.

The Kampuchean people, the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea and I extend warmest congratulations to Your Excellency, the respected great leader, and His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the dear leader, on the materialization of the great cause of *chuche*-oriented socialist construction and new great successes including the construction of most modern, magnificent factories on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the most glorious birthday of Your Excellency great leader.

Expressing our invariable, full solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, we solemnly reaffirm our full, firm support for the so wise and most patriotic policy of Your Excellency great leader for the independent reunification of the country.

Presents Gift to Kim Il-song

*SK081109 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song received today a gift from His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea.

Present on the occasion were the entourage of the samdech and Son Chhum, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Democratic Kampuchea to Korea.

Vice-President Pak Song-chol, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Premier Chong Chun-ki and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Hyong-yol were on hand.

His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk explained to President Kim Il-song the gift.

President Kim Il-song saw the gift and expressed thanks for it.

Gives Gift to Kim Chong-il

*SK082307 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2237 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a gift from His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, now on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed by the samdech to an official concerned.

Yi Kun-mo Receives Message From SRV Leader
SK090417 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1300 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Comrade Yi Kun-mo, premier of the State Administration Council, received a message from Comrade Vo Van Kiet, acting chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, in reply to his message of condolence sent in connection with the death of Comrade Pham Hung, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers.

The reply message noted: We express our wholehearted thanks to you for having sent to our party, government, and people a message of condolence to express your deep sorrow in connection with the death of Comrade Pham Hung, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers.

Kim Il-song Greets Hungarian Liberation Mark
SK031345 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1300 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings on 3 April to Comrade Janos Kadar, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party; Comrade Karoly Nemeth, president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic; and the party and state leaders of the Hungarian People's Republic on the 43d anniversary of the liberation of Hungary, the national holiday of the Hungarian people.

The message said:

On behalf of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK Government, the Korean people, and myself, I send ardent congratulations to you and through you to the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, and the Hungarian people on the 43d anniversary of the liberation of Hungary, the national holiday of the Hungarian people.

Following the liberation, the Hungarian people have made great strides on the road to constructing socialism. They have turned their country, which once was backward, into a socialist industrial state with a developed agricultural sector by overcoming manifold difficulties.

Today the Hungarian people, on the basis of the achievements they have already attained, are striving hard to build a developed socialist society and to defend peace in Europe and in the world.

The Korean people rejoice at the successes registered by the fraternal Hungarian people in the building of a new life. They also sincerely wish you and your people greater success in the future work for implementing the decisions of the 13th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I express the belief that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties, two countries, and two peoples will grow stronger and develop with each passing day, through a common struggle for the triumph of the cause of peace and socialism.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK

[Dated] 3 April 1988

Daily Praises Hungarian Successes
SK041526 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT
4 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article to the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of Hungary from the bondage of fascist Germany.

The article says:

The liberation of Hungary from the yoke of fascist Germany was an epochal event that opened before the Hungarian people a broad road of building a new society.

The Hungarian people have brought about great changes in the building of a new society over the past 43 years. These successes are a fruition of their devoted endeavours.

Noting that the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party held some time ago decided to convene a national party conference on May 20, it goes on: The Korean people will continue to strive for strengthening and developing the friendly and cooperative relations with the Hungarian people in the spirit agreed upon at historic meetings and talks between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Janos Kadar.

The Korean people wish the Hungarian people greater successes in carrying out the decisions of the 13th party congress.

Yi Chong-ok Receives Departing Hungarian Envoy
SK080444 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and had a conversation with Hungarian Ambassador to Korea Janos Taraba who paid a farewell call on him on April 7.

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu was on hand.

New Zimbabwean Ambassador Meets With Officials

Received by Kim Yong-nam

*SK070513 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT
7 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 7 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam on April 6 met and conversed with Nicholas Tasunungurwa Goche, newly appointed Zimbabwean ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Presents Credentials to Kim Il-song

*SK071044 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT
7 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 7 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on April 7 received credentials from Nicholas Tasunungurwa Goche, new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe to Korea. Present at the presentation ceremony were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and an official of the Zimbabwean Embassy in Pyongyang.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the ambassador after receiving the credentials.

Gives Gift to Kim Il-song

*SK080501 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—A gift was presented to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on his birthday by Robert G. Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

It was conveyed to an official concerned by Nicholas Tasunungurwa Goche, Zimbabwean ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Korea, on April 7.

South's Olympic Horses Killed by Disease

*SK100824 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 10 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets are crying over the horses imported from Australia and other countries for Olympic games now dying of a malignant disease, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This was disclosed when the case was questioned by a player of West Germany through the International Horse Association some time ago.

As rumour is spreading throughout Europe that horses imported by the South Korean puppets are dying, countries in that region are seriously examining the problem of attending Olympics, for fear that they should lose their horses during the Olympic games.

Committee To Honor Pak Chong-chol Inaugurated

*SK091514 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 9 (KCNA)—Bereaved families of Pak Chong-chol and Yi Han-yol and opposition figures on April 6 formed the preparatory committee of the society to honor the memory of Pak Chong-chol at the Christian Hall in Seoul and issued a statement in the name of the organization, according to a report. The statement roundly exposed and denounced the shocking atrocity of the fascist clique in murdering Pak Chong-chol by brutal torture and declared that it would demand compensation from the murderers.

Pak Chong-chol, a patriotic student of Seoul University who joined in the struggle for democracy against fascism, was tortured and killed by the South Korean fascist hangmen on January 14, 1987.

Officials Attend House of Culture's Opening

*SK120509 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT
12 Apr 88*

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang International House of Culture which made its grand and beautiful appearance in the middle of Pyongyang, the capital city, was opened with the auspicious April holiday around the corner.

It has exhibition halls introducing successes of culture and art made in Korea and an exhibition hall of national musical instruments of non-aligned and other developing countries, and other excellent facilities to strengthen international cultural exchange.

On March 31, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il inspected the Pyongyang International House of Culture just completed and noted with deep satisfaction that the house was built well to be commodious and stylish.

An inaugural ceremony of the house was held Monday.

Chang Chol, minister of culture and art, made an inaugural address.

The Pyongyang International House of Culture which was constructed in one year or more, he said, is another center which will fully satisfy our people's cultural and emotional needs and help conduct more brisk cooperation and exchange with many countries in cultural and art domains.

It is attributable to the wise leadership and great care of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il that the house was built commodiously in a short period.

Mustafa al-Safarini, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, took the floor on behalf of the diplomatic corps in Pyongyang. Noting that the construction of the splendid house in a brief time is very amazing, he stressed: All this shows once again the sagacity of the guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Speaking next, Teresa Ana Wagner, delegate of UNESCO, said: The inauguration of a national music instruments exhibition hall of non-aligned and developing countries proves that the great leader his excellency Kim Il-song and the dear leader his excellency Kim Chong-il attach weighty importance to art work.

Introduced at the inaugural ceremony were congratulatory messages and letters sent by men of culture and art of different countries and organisations, patriotic traders and industrialists and men of culture and art under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

At the end of the ceremony, Minister Chang Chol cut the red tape hanging across the central hall of the house.

The attendants went round the facilities of the house. The Ministry of Culture and Art hosted a banquet upon the opening of the house.

Film Festival Celebrating 15 April Begins
SK111048 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT*
11 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—A ten-day film show celebrating April 15 began Sunday.

The documentary films "Glory of Our People Holding the Great Leader in High Esteem," "The Leader Is Our People's Great Father" and the feature films "Star of Korea" (part 10), "The Sun of the Nation" (part one) and other films showing the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history of the great leader President Kim Il-song are to be screened in cinema houses and houses of culture throughout the country in this period.

The cinema-goers will also see films depicting our people's boundless loyalty to the great leader such as the feature films "A True Man" and "endorsement" (parts one and two).

Opening ceremonies of the ten-day film show were held Sunday in the provincial and county seats and cities.

Kim Chong-il Flower Greenhouse Opened
SK110501 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT*
11 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—The greenhouse of "Kimchongilia", the immortal flower carrying the august name of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, has been constructed in the middle of the central botanical garden at the foot of Mt. Taesong in Pyongyang.

The "Kimchongilia" greenhouse is a valuable edifice which made its appearance in response to the unanimous purpose and desires of our people and the world progressive people to praise highly the immortal exploits performed by Comrade Kim Chong-il for the time and mankind, hold him in high esteem as the great lodestar of the era of chuche and follow him to the end of the world.

The greenhouse with a floor space of over 1,000 square metres is an architecture of peculiar style — all slant walls and roofs of different levels are all covered with glass. It has an exhibition hall where the visitors can always see "Kimchongilia" whose beautiful flowers come into bloom by turns for 120 odd days.

The greenhouse has a tissue culture room, a dormant room and an air-cooling room equipped with all facilities for cultivating and propagating the flower on a scientific and technological basis.

With the construction of the "Kimchongilia" greenhouse, a firm guarantee has been provided to preserve the immortal flower forever as a wealth of our people and bring it into bloom through generations.

An opening ceremony of the "Kimchongilia" greenhouse was held Sunday.

Chong Chun-gi, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-premier of the Administration Council, in his inaugural address said:

"Kimchongilia" presented to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il by a Japanese gardener who has devoted all his life to horticulture is a rare flower which has beautifully bloomed, nurtured and warmed by ardent loyalty and utmost sincerity to hold him in high esteem as the great teacher of all peoples and follow him to the end.

Kim Hwan Attends Plumbers, Welders Rally
SK120200 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
2200 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpt] A rally of participants in the national competition of plumbers and welders for the construction of the Sunchon vinalon complex was held on the site on 8 April. Present at the rally were Kim Hwan, vice premier;

Kim Pong-chu, chairman of the GFTUK Central Committee; and other functionaries of the relevant sector, as well as the participants in the national competition of plumbers, welders, and builders. [passage omitted]

Clothing, Food Supplied to Students, Children
SK110447 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 11 (KCNA)—On the threshold of the 15th of April, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the DPRK have taken a step of supplying smart clothes of good quality and various foodstuffs free to the students and children throughout the country.

The great favors for the children and students began to be conveyed from April 9 in all parts of the country.

All the nursery and kindergarten children and pupils and students of schools at all levels, from primary school to university, all over the country, are receiving suits, shirts, sweaters, caps, children's union neckerchiefs, etc.

This solicitude involving a huge sum of fund is associated with the boundless love and warm kindness of the respected leader President Kim Il-song and our party not sparing anything in rearing the younger generation, the future of the fatherland, to be communist revolutionaries of chuche type.

The students and children all over the country and their parents are now overwhelmed with gratitude for the care of the party and the leader and joy.

Tae'an Complex, Chongjin Power Complex Output Up
SK121029 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—The Tae'an heavy machine complex has sharply boosted the output of ordered equipment entering April.

The workers there are topping their daily quotas by more than 50 percent by concentrating efforts on the production of such main ordered equipment as the 125,000-kva generator and nitric acid concentrating tower.

In March the complex turned out various equipment including 350 or more electric motors and transformers and sent them to Suncheon, Taechon, the Kwangbok Street and other major construction sites.

The Chongjin thermal power complex has of late lifted the per-hour electricity production by an average of 20,000 kwh above the plan, hitting the all-time high since its commissioning. The power producers there made it possible to increase load by 10,000 kwh per hour by raising the steam temperature of boiler No. 1 by 30 degrees and introducing a new high-pressure heater into turbine No. 2.

Kim Chong-il Work Reissued in Foreign Languages
SK100228 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Pyongyang April 9 (KCNA)—The work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il "On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea" was published in Russian, Chinese, Japanese, English, French, Spanish, Arabic and German by the Foreign Languages Press Group.

This talk of Comrade Kim Chong-il to the senior officials of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (July 15, 1986) was brought out in various languages last year and was recently published again.

The whole system and content of the work is devoted to proving the scientific accuracy, originality and universality of the chuche idea.

The work consummates all theoretical and practical problems arising in education in the chuche idea such as the essence and importance of this education, basic features and content of the chuche-based philosophical outlook on the world, the essence of society and the laws governing its change and development and principle of firmly establishing revolutionary attitude to the leader with a proper understanding of the subject of the revolution.

Comrade Kim Chong-il said that education in the chuche idea means ideological education to firmly arm the party members and working people with the chuche idea, the guiding ideology of our party, and train them to be true communist revolutionaries of chuche type.

Propounding that the chuche idea is a revolutionary doctrine showing the most scientific way for man's emancipation, he stressed that, on the basis of the philosophical principle which clarifies the position and role of man in the world, the chuche idea not only provides a correct outlook and viewpoint on the nature, society and man, but also demonstrates a perfect revolutionary theory, strategy and tactics, and leadership theory and methods. Saying that the most important aspect of education in the chuche idea is that the party members and working people should have a full understanding of the subject of the revolution and firmly establish a revolutionary attitude regarding the leader, Comrade Kim Chong-il said we must intensify education in the chuche idea and thus establish a proper attitude to the subject of the revolution and further strengthen the unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

South Korea

Further Reportage on Saemaul Movement Inquiry

Overseas Fund Diversion Probed
SK120315 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
12 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] The prosecution authorities now investigating Saemaul scandal reportedly launched an intensive probe into allegations that Chon Kyong-hwan had diverted

large sums of money overseas, especially in Australia and Argentina.

According to a vernacular daily report yesterday, the Central Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office is investigating a widespread rumor that Chon invested a considerable sum of money into a 107-story skyscraper in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

To verify the allegation, the prosecution will soon ask government authorities concerned to take necessary steps, including making a request for the Australian government's cooperation in the probe.

It was reported that the Australian government promised to cooperate in ferreting out Chon's properties stashed in Australia.

The prosecution will also summon two officials of Kukje Corp. today to question them on the allegation that Chon invested a large sum of money in a gold mine in Argentina.

Kim Hyon-pae, former executive manager of the nation's largest shoemaker, and his overseas tour secretary will be interrogated on whether it is true that Chon pressured Kukje to take over a gold mine in the South American country.

In the afternoon, the prosecution will summon Chon, now imprisoned at the Seoul Prison, to the prosecution office to grill him on his capital flight overseas.

The prosecution also found out that Chon bought his 22-year-old eldest son studying in the United States a deluxe apartment worth tens of thousands of dollars. The prosecution alleged that Chon purchased the apartment with the money he had secretly diverted to the country.

Meanwhile, the prosecution reportedly finished tracking down the checks amounting to 5.6 billion won, which the prosecution suspects Chon received from business leaders in return for his influence-peddling.

Based on the results, the prosecution will summon all of those involved in the graft beginning today.

According to the prosecution, Chon purchased Inchang Building near Kangnam Express Bus Terminal in southern Seoul for 3.4 billion won.

To buy the building, he illegally drew 2 billion won as a loan from Hanil Bank and misappropriated 1 billion won from Saemaul Athletic Association Fund and 400 million won from a Seoul City subsidy, the prosecution said.

Chon later repaid the 3.4 billion won the sources of which are not identified yet.

The prosecution also found out that Chon received 200 million won from Kim Pjyong-ri, now arrested, who bought land in Ulsan, formerly owned by Yi Hu-rak, an ex-intelligence agency chief, at an excessively cheap price owing to Chon's influence-peddling. Chon returned the money to Kim later.

The law enforcement authorities also questioned Yi Min-sok, president of Hansung Salvage Co., to determine whether he violated laws related to foreign trade in the course of the importation of a worn-out ship which Chon tried to use as a floating training center for Saemaul trainees.

As the deadline for the prosecution of the five Saemaul officials arrested on March 29 nears, the prosecution authorities plan to indict them on April 16.

Chon and his three aides arrested later will be indicted on April 18, according to the prosecution.

RDP Urges Probe of Chon Family

SK120239 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
12 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] Opposition parties yesterday stepped up pressure upon the ruling camp to investigate former president Chon Tu-hwan in connection with the Saemaul scandal and other massive irregularities allegedly perpetrated by family members while Chon was in office.

Kim Myong-yun, acting president of the major opposition Reunification Democratic Party, said, "It is deceiving the people and immoral for Mr. Chon Tu-hwan to have said that he did not know of the massive corruption scandal involving his younger brother Kyong-hwan."

All the scandals widely known to involve Chon's wife Yi Sun-cha and brothers-in-law as well as his two brothers Ki-hwan and Kyong-hwan should be investigated, the acting RDP president claimed.

He was commenting on the remarks of the former president in his press conference on the Saemaul scandal at Kimpo airport upon his return from the United States.

PPD Urges Chon Tu-hwan's To Resign

SK120148 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—A leading campaign staff member of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) Monday called on former President Chon Tu-hwan to take responsibility for his younger brother's past wrongdoing and resign as chairman of the advisory council of elder statesmen.

Kim Kyong-chae, spokesman for the PPD's election campaign headquarters, labeled former President Chon's recent comments on the financial scandal involving the Saemaul (New Community) movement as shameless.

remarks which are intolerable from the moral point of view. He pointed out that Chon, in his meeting with journalists upon arrival from the United States Sunday, had said that he was unaware of the irregularities allegedly involving his younger brother during his presidency.

Former President Chon, Kim went on to say, not only revealed his immorality by shifting all responsibility to his younger brother but also failed to meet the people's wishes and clarify the suspicions about his (younger Chon's) involvement in vested interest and corruption.

The spokesman claimed that Chon's brother, Kyong-hwan, was also involved in the procurement of flowers to be used for the Seoul summer Olympics and the sale of a domestically made liquor in the United States.

Chon Kyong-hwan is now under the custody of the prosecution on charges of having engaged in various irregularities while he headed the officially backed non-profit rural development movement.

He headed the movement's headquarters for several years until 1987 but was confronted with mounting public criticism over his alleged involvement in many irregularities soon after his elder brother stepped down at the end of his seven-year presidency in February. No Tae-u succeeded him as the next president of the republic.

DJP Head: Assembly To Probe Past 'Misdeeds'
SK100141 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] The 13th-term National Assembly to be formed following the coming general elections at the end of this month will launch an extensive probe into all irregularities and misdeeds committed during the Fifth Republic rule, Democratic Justice Party chairman Chae Mun-sik said yesterday.

"We will investigate wrongdoings perpetrated in the past and do our utmost to prevent recurrence of similar malpractices," he said in a rally of party members at party's chapter in southern Seoul.

He reaffirmed that the party will cooperate with the government to translate into practice pledges President No Tae-u promised during his campaigning in the presidential election.

He said, "I admit that there may be some problems to keep the promises possibly for lack of cooperation between administrative organs."

"To solve the problems," he said, "we will further strive to smooth the cooperative network between the party and the government and set up a consultative organization composed of officials from the party, premier's office and the presidential secretariat."

"The organ will hold a monthly meeting to push ahead with the presidential promises," he added.

In line with the official start of electioneering Friday, the DJP intensified its attacks on the opposition forces claiming that they are perpetrating various irregularities.

The party held the first meeting of central election center presided over by secretary general Sim Myong-po yesterday morning and decided to collect cases of oppositionists' campaign malpractices.

During the meeting, the party concluded that only fair elections could minimize the repercussions of overheated elections and decided to scrutinize whether the party should lead a campaign for fair elections.

The party accused the Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy of their planned outdoor rallies in Seoul scheduled yesterday saying "they are scheming to hold unlawful rallies irrespective of the election law."

The party made public some cases of opposition irregularities including disguised registration of resident cards for RDP spokesman Kim Tae-yong.

It said it will set up a reporting center at the party headquarters to further collect evidence of unlawful deeds.

Meanwhile, secretary general Sim clarified that the party had no intention to revise the Constitution against the people's will and brushed aside the opposition accusation that it is scheming to rewrite the Constitution to adopt a parliamentary cabinet system.

Prosecutor Issues Sex-Torture Case Summonses
SK090141 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
9 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Lawyer Cho Yong-hwang, special prosecutor in the so-called Puchon sexual molestation case, issued summonses to Kwon In-suk, alleged victim, and Mun Kwi-tong, former police detective and alleged offender.

In the summonses, Cho asked Miss Kwon, 24, former Seoul National University dropout, to present herself at a courtroom in the Incheon District Court before 9:30 a.m. today.

The lawyer also requested Mun, 42, to appear at the same place on the morning of April 12.

The first trial on the sexual harassment case will be held around April 20 after Cho finishes initial questioning of Miss Kwon and Mun and examination of the records on the case.

Cho revealed that he will ask, if necessary, prosecutors who investigated the case in 1985 to stand as witnesses in the trial.

Meanwhile, senior Judge Yi Kon-ung of the district court said that he is considering issuing an arrest warrant for Mun at the request of the special prosecutor.

Former Police Investigator Arrested
*SK090714 Seoul YONHAP in English 0658 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Incheon, South Korea, April 9 (YONHAP)—A former police investigator to be retried on sexual abuse charges involving a dissident activist was arrested by the Incheon District Court Saturday.

A court official said the court's arrest of Mun Kwi-tong, 42, former counterespionage investigator with the Puchon police station, was an exceptional step stemming from the importance of the case, adding that the action was not taken in response to a request made by the special prosecutor designated by the court.

Another court official said the arrest was to protect Mun from possible harassment when he is subpoenaed to appear before the court next Tuesday.

Special prosecutor Cho Yong-hwang, an attorney at law appointed by the court to take up Mun's retrial, requested that the court arrest Mun and also subpoenaed Mun to appear at his court office next Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Mun said he will file a challenge with the court against the special prosecutor who he insisted was biased against him and has no justification to request a court arrest.

Mun denied the legality of the sexual abuse charges against him saying that Ok Pong-hwan, former superintendent of the Puchon police station, ordered him to give false testimony before the prosecutors in 1986.

Mun said Ok told him to testify that he only hit the victim several times. Mun added that he will ask the court to call Ok to testify, if necessary.

On the same day, special prosecutor Cho summoned the victim, Kwon In-suk, 25, to his court office and questioned her about Mun's alleged sexual harassment.

Ms. Kwon, a former Seoul National University coed, was arrested and interrogated by Mun and his former colleagues on charges of instigating labor disputes after obtaining a job at a factory by falsifying her identity. When appearing before Cho, she confirmed all the remarks she had made to the prosecutors as facts.

A Supreme Court ruling in late January accepted an appeal by Ms. Kwon's lawyers and cleared the way for a retrial of the case, dubbed as a sex-torture case.

The alleged sexual abuse case first came to light when Ms. Kwon filed a complaint with the prosecution alleging that Mun sexually harassed her during interrogation at his office on June 6 and 7 in 1986.

The prosecution, however, dismissed her allegations as untrue and instead accused her of fabricating the sexual abuse story and filed other charges against her.

The prosecution arranged later for the police to fire Mun. Ms. Kwon was subsequently convicted and sentenced to an 18-month prison term. She was released on parole in July last year.

Pak Chong-chol Group Seeks Monetary Recompense
*SK090131 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
9 Apr 88 p 3*

[Text] A committee set up in memory of the late Pak Chong-chol yesterday filed a lawsuit with the Seoul district Civil Court, seeking 287 million won in compensation for his tragic death.

Pak, a Seoul National University [SNU] junior, was tortured to death in January last year while undergoing questioning by police for his antigovernment activities.

The committee, formally inaugurated at the Christian building in Chongno 5-ga, central Seoul, Thursday, sued the government, five police officers who allegedly participated in the torture of the SNU student activist, other police officers and prosecution officials.

In the suit, the committee said the unpardonable crime was not accidental committed by several police officers but was a "spontaneous eruption of contradictories" which have been amassed in Korean society over the last 40 years.

Suers numbering 60 included 16 lawyers, bereaved family members of those killed by martial law troops in the 1980 Kwangju incident and Yi Han-yol, a Yonsei University student who died last year of head injuries he sustained after being hit by a tear-gas shell during an antigovernment demonstration.

Also included was Kwon In-suk, who was allegedly sexually harassed by a police officer.

SNU Students Hold Rally, Put Up Posters
*SK090603 Seoul Television Service in Korean
1200 GMT 6 Apr 88*

[Text] This afternoon approximately 3,000 Seoul National University [SNU] students held a meeting to inaugurate their newly formed general student council and staged a demonstration in which they called for the abolition of the National Security Law.

Meanwhile, in front of the SNU Student Hall this afternoon, a wall poster carrying the so-called letter from the Kim Il-song University student committee to SNU students, and another wall poster carrying the so-called letter from Pak Kwan-ok, president of Kim Il-song University, to the SNU president, were posted. However, they were torn down and removed by an unidentified person after about 1 hour.

Paper on Games; Warns Against Misleading North
SK100116 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
10 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Ensuring Olympic Success"]

[Text] The success of the Summer Olympics in Seoul this year, undeniably, will have a far-reaching impact on the promotion of world peace. These are a couple of reasons for the unprecedented importance of the Seoul Olympiad; it is going to be the biggest ever with over 160 countries' participating and, perhaps more significantly, will be the first boycott-free Games in 12 years.

Understandably, the United States and the Soviet Union are eager to make the Seoul Games a success; both experienced the adverse impact of boycotts at previous Games. And sport experts invariably comment that preparations are perfect, ensuring the Seoul Games will be a rare success.

All this notwithstanding, many people are concerned about what Communist north Korea might do. Pyongyang's unpredictability and terrorist adventurism, shown on so many occasions and by the midair bombing of a south Korean civil jetliner last November, has led to such concern. The destruction, as confessed by one of the Pyongyang agents who planted the bombs, was aimed at scaring people away from attending the Seoul Olympiad—a telling example of how the northern regime is desperate to obstruct the Games.

Against that backdrop, Lt. Gen. James B. Davis, commander of U.S. Forces Japan, this week said the United States plans to send additional military forces into south Korea during the Summer Games if north Korea attempts to disrupt them. This certainly constitutes Washington's resolute determination to prevent the upcoming peace festival in Seoul from being sabotaged by the Pyongyang regime, whose Kim Il-song, in Davis' words, may be getting "frantic" in his attempts to unite the two Koreas before his death.

As he said, the Seoul Olympiad, in the north Korean view, may be the closing of the window of opportunity. This obsession may compel the northern Communists to do something before it is too late. Yet, it is wondered if Pyongyang has really thought about the devastating consequences resulting from such anachronistic adventurism. One who is interested in peace will neither

support nor sympathize with such frenetic rashness. Any more militant acts waged by the Pyongyang Communists to foil the Seoul Games will only prove to be self-destruction on their part.

The Communists in the north must be made aware of all this horrible eventuality. This is also a responsibility for all those who are anxious to see the Seoul Games prove to be another milestone in solidifying the cause of peace. Helping Pyongyang out of its fantastic preoccupation so it can look squarely at reality is one way for all peace-loving people to help. Any acts, under whatever excuses, that might mislead Pyongyang into delusion, must be avoided. Doing so is no less important than remaining alert against possible Pyongyang ventures.

Further Reportage on National Assembly Contest

Joint Rallies To Start 16 April
SK120305 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
12 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] Joint stumping rallies for candidates in the coming National Assembly elections will start Saturday across the country, the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) announced yesterday.

Three joint campaign rallies are allowed in each of election districts under the current election law which bans individual rallies.

The committee will set detailed schedules of times and places for the joint stumping rallies Thursday, one day after the deadline for candidate registration.

As of yesterday afternoon more than 700 candidates were registered with the committee.

CEMC Announces Spending Limit
SK120323 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
12 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] The official upper limit for election spending has been set at an average 85,118,000 won (about \$114,000) for a candidate in the April 26 elections, up 21 percent over the previous election, the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) announced yesterday.

The legal limit, however, bears little meaning as most candidates are sure to pour far more money than the restriction into the elections which have already been heated up under the small constituency system electing one lawmaker from each precinct political sources said.

The largest 164,264,000 won has been set for candidates competing in the Haenam-Chindo election district in Chollanam-do and the least 55,959,000 won for those in the Tonghae City district in Kangwon-do.

The announcement said the election cost includes rent fees for election offices, payment for campaigners and expenditures in producing placards and banners.

No 'Concerned' About Corruption

SK120251 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
12 Apr 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] Chunchon, Kangwon-do—President No Tae-u yesterday voiced his concern about the prevailing corruption in the ongoing campaign for general election slated for April 26.

"The people as well as I cannot help worrying about the nationwide scenes of overheated and corrupt campaigns from the initial stage of the election campaign," he said.

No aired his concern during an inspection of Kangwon-do province's administration in the provincial capital.

The Chief Executive pointed out, "The problem is that politics which should reflect the highest standards in state affairs falls short of public expectation."

He said that the candidates should not resort to the old-fashioned ways of campaigns such as gift-distribution, demagoguery and slander against rival candidate.

"In democracy, process is more important than outcome. Therefore, all candidates should seek triumph in a fair and clean manner in line with election statutes," No stressed.

No said emphatically that the government will sternly deal with acts of violence and destruction of law and order during the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

DJP To Announce National Roster

SK120245 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
12 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] The Democratic Justice Party announces its roster of about 60 candidates for the national constituency today one day before the deadline for registration with the Central Election Management Committee.

Party chairman Chae Mun-sik and secretary general Sim Myong-po consulted with President No Tae-u to finalize the screening work on Sunday and yesterday.

Of the list, which will be announced after it is passed by the party's Central Executive Council this morning, 42 people are expected to secure National Assembly seats because the party aims to catch some 55-56 percent of the 224 House seats in the local districts.

Under the national constituency system seats are to be shared by parties winning five seats or more through the voting in the local precincts.

The candidates include party chairman Chae Mun-sik, who will be the No 1 in the list, Chong Sok-mo, former home minister, and Choe Chang-yun, party planning and coordination director from the party side.

DJP: Opposition Breaking Law

SK100151 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
10 Apr 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Unfavorable Conditions"]

[Text] "Conditions under which parliamentary election campaigns are conducted are disadvantageous to our candidates," said a DJP spokesman yesterday.

Spokesman Choe Sang-chin said opposition parties are violating the election law by holding unlawful mass rallies.

He also accused opposition candidates of having their relatives file false reports with government offices stating that they have moved into the candidates' electoral districts.

Opposition parties, he said, spread a false rumor that the ruling party is certain to win a landslide victory, in an attempt to elicit voter support and check the ruling party.

7 PPD Members Hold 'Illegal' Rally

SK120153 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
12 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] The Seoul Metropolitan Police Bureau has decided to book seven members of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, including its acting president Pak Yong-suk, on charges of holding an illegal outdoor stumping rally in Seoul Saturday.

The police bureau yesterday sent summonses to acting president Pak, Choe Yong-kun, chief of the party's election campaigning headquarters and five candidates for parliamentary seats to appear for questioning.

In defiance of warnings from police and the Central Election Management Committee, the party went through with a rally for cementing party members' solidarity on a vacant lot in front of the Nowon Subway Station in northern Seoul.

The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) had ruled the PPD rally could hardly be regarded as an inside event by a political party, calling on the party to hold an indoor rally.

Kim Tae-chung Urges Joint Struggle
SK120321 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
12 Apr 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Yi Song-yol]

[Text] Kunsan, Chollabuk-do—Kim Tae-chung has proposed a joint struggle by opposition parties against election rigging.

"I propose opposition parties refrain from denouncing one another during the election campaign, thus providing a foundation for a joint anti-No Tae-u front," Kim said here yesterday.

The former president of the PPD made the remarks while attending the inaugural rallies of six PPD local chapters in this province.

He was kicking off a five-day stumping trip in his political strongholds of North and South Cholla provinces in support of PPD candidates for the coming parliamentary election on April 26.

At the rallies, Kim stressed the need for meetings among the campaign chiefs of the six opposition parties.

He denounced the ruling Democratic Justice Party as trying to rig the election by pushing a massive residential re-registration.

Kim also renewed his earlier allegation that President No was elected by a "computer gimmick."

But he said he is willing to cooperate with President No if a six-point demand is met. The demand includes, among other things, fair management of the coming election, full freedom of the press, and political neutrality of the police and security agencies.

During the five-day tour, Kim is to stump in some 30 cities or gun (counties) in Cholla provinces.

Kim plans to make a similar stumping trip to Cholla areas next week.

Kim Tae-chung Warns DJP on Fraud
SK120249 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
12 Apr 88 p 1

[By Staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] IRI, Chollabuk-do—Kim Tae-chung warned yesterday that the "No Tae-u regime" would face a "gloomy" path if it repeated the election rigging in the forthcoming parliamentary elections which it practised in the December presidential election.

The de facto leader of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy said in an address to a rally here, "Whether Mr. No Tae-u has a genuine will for democracy will be determined through the forthcoming general elections.

"If the ruling camp perpetrates election frauds again in the general elections, the people will not tolerate it and the No Tae-u regime will face a very gloomy path," the former PPD president said.

Kim attended rallies to found local chapters of the PPD in Chollabuk-do province for the parliamentary elections.

The former PPD president said, "I have reason to suspect the will of the No Tae-u regime to achieve democracy and fair management of the election."

Kim cited as the signs of election fraudulence the "mass transfer of resident registrations to produce votes for the ruling party candidates and the use of administration machinery and exorbitant amounts of money by the DJP.

The PPD leader declared that the ruling camp was mounting a campaign of suppression upon the opposition, the PPD in particular.

He was referring to police charges against acting PPD president Pak Yong-suk for organizing "an illegal outdoor rally" last Saturday.

The PPD claimed that Saturday's "solidarity rallies" were ordinary activities of the party, countering the judgement by the Central Election Management Committee.

The former PPD president said, however, "I am willing to cooperate for the No Tae-u regime if Mr. No Tae-u works for democracy in a sincere manner from now on, though he was elected president through fraud."

RDP Criticizes DJP's 'Rumors'
SK100145 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] The opposition Reunification Democratic Party denounced yesterday the government party for its repeated launch of "black propaganda" against RDP parliamentary candidates, as witnessed in the December presidential election.

Kim Tok-yong, spokesman for the RDP campaign center, issued a statement blaming Rep. Yi Chong-chan, the ruling party's parliamentary candidate in the Chongno District of Seoul, for spreading "fabricated rumors" against his RDP counterpart Kim Myong-yun. Rep. Yi Chong-chan, former floor leader of the Democratic Justice Party, alleged in an address to his pre-election

campaign rally Thursday that acting RDP president Kim was a prosecutor who had suppressed independence fighters during the Japanese rule of Korea from 1910 to 1945.

The RDP spokesman dismissed Yi's allegation as "groundless black propaganda," claiming that the acting RDP president took up the duty of prosecutor in the Kangnung District in Kangwon-do Province for the first time in 1948 after national independence.

RDP spokesman Kim Tok-yong asked Rep. Yi of the DJP, "How can he, who as one of the key architects of the Fifth Republic military dictatorship which placed 'democratic figures' under political ban, pose himself as a person who has inherited the independence spirit?"

Burma

Chairman U Ne Win Leaves on 'Overseas Trip' *BK111348 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese* 1330 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] U Ne Win, chairman of the Burma Socialist Program Party [BSPP], left on an overseas trip at 1315 today. The party chairman was accompanied by his wife, Daw Ni Ni Myint; Dr Maung Maung, U Thauang Tin, and U Ohn Kyi, members of the State Council; Thura U Kyaw Htin, deputy prime minister and minister of defense; U Lay Maung, member of the Council of People's Attorneys; U Maung Cho, minister of industry-2; and high-ranking officials of the BSPP Chairman's Office and the Defense Ministry.

The party chairman and his entourage were seen off at Rangoon Airport by U San Yu, party vice chairman, president, and State Council chairman, and his wife; members of the party Central Executive Committee headed by General Secretary U Aye Ko, and their wives; State Council members led by U Sein Lwin, State Council secretary, and their wives; Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha; ministers; chairmen of the central organs of power and their wives; Mr (Mahmud Isma'il Sa'id 'Izal), dean of the diplomatic corps in Burma and Egyptian ambassador, and his wife; Dr Walther Marschall von Bieberstein, FRG ambassador to Burma; and high-ranking military officials.

Cabinet Committee Meets on Economic Plan *BK090930 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese* 1330 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] A coordination meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Council of Ministers and chairmen of Executive Committees of the divisional and state people's councils was held at the conference hall of the Office of the Council of Ministers this morning to discuss implementation of the yearly economic plan for 1987-88—third year of the Fifth 4-Year Economic Plan [year as heard].

The coordination meeting was attended by U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister and chairman of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Council of Ministers; Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and finance; Thura U Kyaw Htin, deputy prime minister and minister of defense; ministers who are members of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Council of Ministers; deputy ministers; chairmen of Executive Committees of the divisional and state people's councils; responsible officials; and departmental heads.

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha said the meeting was convened to coordinate work with divisions and states concerned on implementation of the yearly Economic Plan for 1988-89, which was laid down by the Sixth Session of the Fourth

People's Assembly and whose implementation work began on 1 April 1988. He said duties have been accurately assigned to organizations concerned for implementation of the plan targets according to the Law on Targets for Production and Services of the 1988 Economic Plan passed by the Sixth Session of the Fourth People's Assembly. He said the duties assigned should be carried out under the party leadership with the help of organizational and management methods.

Continuing, the prime minister said the annual growth rate for the value of gross national product and services for 1988-89 was set at 2.3 percent. He said that as the target was based on existing concrete conditions, efforts should be made to achieve the set target. He added that programs should be drawn up in advance for full collection of land, water, and irrigation taxes, timely disbursement of agricultural loans, and full collection of loan repayments. He then pointed out the need for respective regions to produce sufficient amounts of essential crops such as paddy, oil-producing crops, beans and pulses for both local consumption and exports.

Next, the chairmen of Executive Committees of state and divisional people's councils reported on plan implementation work in their respective states and divisions, and the ministers concerned of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Council of Ministers responded to their discussions.

The coordination meeting ended at 1200 after the prime minister delivered a closing speech.

Briefs

PRC News Delegation Departs

A PRC journalists' delegation headed by Mr (He Lanxi), vice president of the Hunan Journalist Association, which was visiting Burma under the bilateral cultural exchange program, left Rangoon by air this afternoon. The delegation of Chinese journalists was seen off at Rangoon Airport by responsible officials of the News and Periodicals Corporation and the PRC Embassy in Burma. [Text] [BK061441 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Apr 88]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Court Rejects Appeal Against New UMNO *BK121059 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English* 1041 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The High Court here Tuesday rejected an application by two former prime ministers and another former minister

to stop UMNO Baru (New UMNO) from recruiting members, transferring the assets of the old UMNO and stopping the party from making statements on the proposed UMNO Malaysia.

UMNO (United Malays National Organisation), the main component in the 13-party National Front coalition government which has ruled the country since its independence in 1957, was declared illegal by the High Court due to technical reasons last February, following a suit brought by 11 of its members who wanted the court to declare the last party elections in which the Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed defeated his challenger former Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah by a mere 41 votes, null and void.

Following the High Court's decision several attempts were made to revive the party. Former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn's bid to form UMNO Malaysia was unsuccessful when the Registrar of Societies rejected their application to have the new party registered.

Dr. Mahathir's group, whose initial bid was also unsuccessful, was later able to get the Registrar of Societies to accept the new UMNO's registration.

Justice Ajaib Singh, in dismissing the application of former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn and former Agriculture Minister Abdul Manan Othman with costs, ruled that the application was without any merit or substance and there was no basis whatsoever on which the court could grant the injunction.

The plaintiffs' application for the interim injunction which they seek against the defendants is without any merit or substance, he said in his written judgment delivered before a packed court.

UMNO Baru, the judge said, was a duly registered society under the Societies Act 1966 and by issuing membership application forms in its drive to recruit members, the party was doing no more than pursuing its legitimate aims and aspirations as a lawful political party.

On the other hand, the position of the proposed UMNO Malaysia is far from stable. Its application for registration under the Societies Act stands rejected and an appeal against its rejection is pending before the minister of home affairs, he added.

In the application, the plaintiffs had named Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Mohamed Rahmat who were sued as president and secretary-general of UMNO Baru.

The plaintiffs had sought to stop UMNO Baru from issuing any membership forms to any former UMNO members or accepting them as members.

The three had also wanted the court to stop UMNO Baru from transferring, dealing with or disposing of any assets of the old UMNO and to stop UMNO Baru from making oral or written statements on matters pertaining to or touching on them or members of the pro tem committee of UMNO Malaysia.

Justice Ajaib Singh, who will hear on Friday an application by Dr Mahathir and Mohamed Rahmat to strike out the plaintiffs' suit in which they were asking for a permanent injunction, granted leave to the three to appeal to the Supreme Court.

In his three-page judgment, the judge said it would be wrong, and even preposterous, for the court to restrain the defendants from making statements concerning UMNO Malaysia.

Freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed in the Federal Constitution. Political parties are free to make statements on matters of public concern and on the contemporary political situation and these statements may well touch on the activities of other political parties, Justice Ajaib Singh added.

But, he said, freedom of speech and expression was not absolute and it remained within the ambit of laws such as those on sedition and defamation.

On the plaintiffs' application to stop UMNO Baru from transferring the assets of the old UMNO, Justice Ajaib Singh said he agreed with the submission of counsel for the defendants, Zaki Tun Azmi.

The judge said that when a society was cancelled under the Societies Act, all the assets and liabilities of the society became vested in the Registrar of Societies and he (the registrar) was duty bound to deal with the assets in accordance with the provisions of the Societies Act.

And now, under the amendments to the act, a fair and just provision is provided in Section 17b which contains ample safeguards for the members of the cancelled society in respect of their rights and obligations in the assets and liabilities of the cancelled society, he added.

Zaki had during the course of his arguments submitted that Dr Mahathir and Mohamed did not have the power to transfer the assets to UMNO Baru and that only the official assignee could do this.

However, even the official assignee had to seek a court order before the transfer could be carried out, he had said.

The judge said that on the material before him, the plaintiffs did not appear to have a real prospect of succeeding in their claim for permanent injunctions which they had filed against the defendants in their suit and they could not, therefore, obtain the interim injunction pending the trial proper.

Application Rejected in Mahathir Libel Suit
BK081355 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1150 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 8 (BERNAMA)—The High Court here Friday rejected an application by the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW and its editor to include the home minister and the government as third parties to a libel suit filed against them by Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

Justice Ajaib Singh ruled that the two defendants' application was clearly an attempt to embarrass the prime minister and prejudice the fair trial of his suit.

The third party procedure invoked by the defendants is misconceived. It is an abuse of the process of the court and cannot be sustained, he added.

Justice Ajaib Singh said the home minister and the government could not be brought in as third parties as there was no nexus between them and Dr Mahathir.

There is also no reasonable cause of action which Dr Mahathir or the defendants can maintain against the home minister and the government, he added.

The judge, who heard the application by the magazine and its editor Derek Davies last week, had deferred judgment to today. The magazine and Davies are being sued by Dr Mahathir over an article on Limbang district in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak, that appeared in its May 21 issue last year.

Dr Mahathir is also seeking unspecified damages for alleged libel contained in an apology and retraction relating to the article published by the magazine last June 4.

Justice Ajaib Singh said the first article under the Intelligence column of the magazine referred to the two-day visit of the prime minister to Brunei Darussalam in March last year.

It suggested that the main reason for the visit was not the ostensible one of improving transport links with Brunei but that, as understood by the magazine, foremost on the agenda was a proposal to sell Limbang, in the fifth division of Sarawak, to Brunei at a starting price of U.S.\$6 billion, he said.

The second article, the judge said, was a prominent retraction and apology. It retracted its earlier report and offered sincere apologies and said that the earlier report was published in good faith from sources which in the past had proved to be both well-informed and reliable.

On the application to include the home minister and the government as third parties, Justice Ajaib Singh said the defendants had contended that if the court decided the libel suit in favour of the prime minister and award him damages, they would want contribution or indemnity from the two.

The judge said they had contended that this was because the two publications (the two articles) were released for distribution with the consent and acquiescence of the home minister and the government and/or by the negligent acts and omissions of their officers.

Justice Ajaib Singh said counsel for the defendants, Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, had referred to Section 9 of the Printing Presses and Publications Act and contended that the authorised senior officers were negligent and in breach of their statutory duties for not inquiring and investigating into the articles to see that they were not libellous.

Section 9 of the Act was designed to prohibit the importation of undesirable publications into the country.

Muhammad Shafee had submitted that under the act the senior authorised officers not only had the power to stop the distribution of the articles or delete the objectionable parts but had the duty to inquire whether the articles contravened any law including the law of defamation.

I cannot agree with Muhammad Shafee's submission. His interpretation of Section 9 is, in my view, altogether fallacious, the judge said.

Justice Ajaib Singh later granted leave to the defendants to appeal to the Supreme Court.

He will hear next Thursday an application by the prime minister to get the defendants to specify the name of the source or sources which they claimed in their defence had proved in the past to be well-informed and reliable.

In the suit, Dr Mahathir, among other things, claimed that the words in the article concerning him in the way of his office as prime minister, in their ordinary meaning, are understood to mean he was engaged in an unconstitutional and surreptitious attempt to sell to Brunei a part of the territory of Sarawak which is a component of Malaysia.

He said because of the publication of the said words, he had been damaged in his character as prime minister and had been brought into public scandal, odium and contempt.

The magazine and its editor, in their defence, denied that the article was meant to defame the prime minister, adding that if the words were defamatory, they were published with qualified privilege as Dr Mahathir is a public figure known in Malaysia and the world.

Indonesian Defense Minister Arrives 11 Apr
BK110953 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0929 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Subang, April 11 (BERNAMA)—Indonesian Minister of Defence and Security General Leonardus Benni Murdani arrived Monday for a two-day visit.

He was greeted on arrival at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base here by Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Deputy Defence Minister Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha and Secretary General of the Defence Ministry Nasruddin Bahar. Also present was Chief of Defence Forces General Hashim Ali.

Gen Murdani, accompanied by five ministry officials, will see Tengku Rithauddeen for discussions tomorrow before calling on Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

This is Gen Murdani's first visit to Malaysia since being appointed defence and security minister last month. Prior to this he was the Indonesian defence chief.

Comments on Spratlys Dispute
BK120711 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0539 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Southeast Asian region should not be excessively worried about the Sino-Vietnamese dispute over the Spratly Islands, Indonesian Defence Minister General (rtd) L.B. Murdani said on Tuesday.

The problem is likely to take on international dimensions but then the region should not be excessively worried for now, he told newsmen after calling on his Malaysian counterpart Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen at the Defence Ministry here.

Gen Murdani arrived here Monday for a two-day visit, his first since he was appointed to the defence portfolio last month. He was the Indonesian defence forces chief before the cabinet post.

He said a conflict of that nature could not be limited to one or two countries, as the Spratlys were in the middle of so many countries.

The Spratly Islands are surrounded by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, he said.

The Spratlys are also claimed in whole or in part by Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan, and are flanked by the United States and Soviet military bases in the Philippines and Vietnam respectively.

We should hope that it (the dispute) will not spill over, Gen Murdani said.

Responding to a question, he said: Of course we all have to worry and prevent the worst from happening but I do not think we should be excessively worried.

Chinese and Vietnamese warships clashed for the first time last month in the Spratlys as both nations asserted their claims to the obscure but strategic collection of small islands and coral reefs.

Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen declined comment on the dispute.

After the news conference, the Indonesian leader called on Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

Commentary on UK Minister Howe's Visit
BK110957 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The British foreign minister's official visit to Malaysia last week can be described as a timely event in the context of Malaysia's determination to press ahead with more economic contacts with Britain. It can also be seen as an event that will bring about greater trade and economic ties between ASEAN and the European Community.

For historic reasons, the British tend to gravitate more toward Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei rather than to other ASEAN members. The hardheaded British business people are well aware of the favorable climate for the investments in Malaysia.

[Words indistinct] those investments would yield even greater dividends as the ASEAN countries (?evolve) among themselves as free trade areas. In the not too distant future, many are optimistic that they can even begin thinking of a common market. Such schemes involving governments and peoples take a long time to become reality. After all, even Britain decided to join the European Community long after the formation of that organization.

On bilateral issues, there is much satisfaction in the Malaysian community that the Malaysian and British Governments have agreed to work together on certain issues. Foremost among them is the treaty concerning confiscation of assets derived from drug trafficking. The two governments will therefore not only continue their war on drugs, drug addiction, and drug trafficking, but also provide for much greater cooperation in this field. Work will begin on this vital task as soon as the royal assent has been given to the draft law that the Malaysian Parliament has already passed.

Similarly, the decision to work on a bilateral treaty on copyright will also be welcomed by the Malaysian and British publishers and authors. Malaysia is a substantial market for British publishers, and the new Malaysian

Copyright Act does provide for a bilateral treaty that will ensure that each country will enforce the law to safeguard the interests of other countries, authors, and their publications.

Malaysia's bid for [United Nations] Security Council membership in 1989-90 was brought up at the talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe. The Malaysian Government appreciates the British reaction. The British foreign minister has explained the policy of his government that (?their) vote is not promised in advance, nor made public in advance. However, the foreign minister and his government have taken note of Malaysia's request and they have also expressed understanding of the Malaysian aspiration.

In the cultural and educational fields, the Malaysian community welcomes the establishment of two new fellowships for advanced research in public administration and scientific research. Relations between Malaysia and Britain will continue to be cordial and will become even more important and significant than before.

Thai Border Security 'Improved Tremendously'
BK091556 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The security situation along the Malaysia-Thai border has improved tremendously. Army Corps Commander Lieutenant General Datuk Mohamed Daud Abu Bakar said that remnants of communist terrorists operating in the border area have lost their confidence and fighting spirit.

Lt Gen Datuk Mohamed Daud made the remarks at the 52d session of the Malaysia-Thai Joint Border Committee in Penang. It is now estimated that only about 1,300 communist terrorists are still operating in the border area.

The Thai delegation, led by Lieutenant General Atkhumwong, also called on acting Penang Chief Minister Datuk (Kho Geh Por).

Singapore

Magazine Rejects Limited Printing Offer
HK081148 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Hong Kong, April 8 (AFP)—The Singapore Government has rejected the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW's request to print 10,000 advertisement-free copies for distribution in the republic, the magazine's managing director said Friday.

Charles Stolbach said the Singapore authorities had informed the REVIEW that it would only be allowed to print 2,000 copies, an offer which the regional magazine has turned down.

"If we cannot serve all of our subscribers, we choose to serve none of them," Mr. Stolbach said.

Singapore's Ministry of Communications and Information said this figure was arrived at because "other reproducers have obtained approval to reproduce 8,000 copies," Mr. Stolbach said.

The weekly had its circulation in Singapore restricted in December to 500 copies from a usual 10,000 after the government accused the Hong Kong-based news publication of engaging in domestic politics.

Instead of accepting the restriction, the REVIEW—a unit of Dow Jones and Co.—suspended circulation in Singapore altogether.

The advertisement-free reprinting application had been made after the Singapore Government said non-profit reproductions of the magazine would be allowed.

An earlier similar request by the REVIEW was rejected in February on technical grounds.

Mr. Stolbach said the REVIEW would not apply for a third time. "This is the end of the matter unless they allow us to print 10,000 copies," he said.

Cambodia

Cooperation Protocol Signed With SRV
BK120739 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0408 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 12 Apr (SPK)—An economic and cultural cooperation protocol for 1988 between Cambodia and Vietnam was signed on 9 April at the end of the ninth session of the commission for cooperation between the two countries.

The protocol was signed by Tang Saroem, minister of economic and cultural cooperation with foreign countries, and Dang Thi, CPV Central Committee member, minister, and chairman of the Vietnamese Commission for Economic and Cultural Cooperation with Laos and Cambodia.

By virtue of this document, the two sides continue to develop their all-around activities: cooperation in production, subcontracting, contracts, service activities, and trade exchanges. Vietnam will help Cambodia in the training of cadres and specialists.

Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, was present at the signing ceremony.

The Vietnamese delegation left Phnom Penh this morning, concluding its 6-day visit to Cambodia.

During its stay in Cambodia, the delegation visited tourist sites at Tonle Bati (Takeo Province) and the Angkor Wat Temple (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province).

Heng Samrin Receives Outgoing Soviet Envoy
BK120747 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0410 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 12 April (SPK)—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State, received in Phnom Penh yesterday morning USSR Ambassador Yuriy Ivanovich Razdukhov, who came to take leave of him at the end of his mission to Cambodia.

After voicing high appreciation of the successful growth of the relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the two countries, General Secretary Heng Samrin expressed profound thanks to the party, government, and people of the Soviet Union for their support and assistance to the Cambodian people.

He underlined that the Cambodian people will do their best to further consolidate international solidarity in the interest of peace in the region and the world.

For his part, Yuriy Ivanovich Razdukhov thanked the party and Government of the PRK for all the opportunities provided him during his term in Cambodia. He warmly praised the Cambodian people for their remarkable achievements scored in the past 9 years under the clear-sighted leadership of the KPRP, and reiterated his country's unchanging support to Cambodia.

Earlier, the Soviet diplomat was received by Chea Sim, Political Bureau member and chairman of the National Assembly, and Hun Sen, Political Bureau member and chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers.

Kim Il-song Supports People's Struggle
BK120100 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] DPRK President Kim Il-song hosted a banquet for Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Pyongyang on 8 April.

On the occasion, President Kim Il-song said that his country continued to support the Cambodian people's just struggle to liberate their country from Vietnamese occupation.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk also voiced support for a peaceful reunification of the Korean motherland.

March Offensive Against Villages Reported
BK120540 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Station commentary: "Our National Army Dispersed and Dismantled the Vietnamese Administrative Networks in Nearly 1,000 Villages and Many Communes in March"]

[Text] Having better grasped the significance of an offensive against two or three villages simultaneously, in March our National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] and our people on all battlefields throughout the country enthusiastically intensified their activities to attack Vietnamese villages. As a result, we liberated, dispersed, and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks in 935 villages, 48 communes, and a number of townships and district seats.

On each battlefield, the number of villages and communes in which we liberated and dispersed or dismantled the Vietnamese administrative networks surpassed that in February and the other months in the current 10th dry season.

For example, on the battlefields around Battambang Town, we liberated, dispersed, and dismantled the Vietnamese administrative networks in 143 villages and 15 communes in March—111 villages and 13 communes more than in February. On the battlefield north of Phnom Penh, we liberated, dispersed, and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks in 103 villages—68 more than in February. On the battlefield northwest of Phnom Penh, we dispersed and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks in 96 villages—68 more than in February. On the Kompong Cham battlefield, we liberated, dispersed and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks in 120 villages—62 more than in February. On the Northeast-Eastern battlefield, we liberated, dispersed, and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks in 70 villages—18 more than in February.

On other battlefields, the results are as follows: the Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey battlefield: 76 villages—25 more than in February; Kompong Thom: 74 villages—14 more than in February; Kompong Som battlefield: 33 villages—16 more than in February.

Therefore, our offensive to attack two or three villages simultaneously has proceeded more effectively throughout the country. This is an advance of our struggle on the battlefield against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. The more the Vietnamese administrative networks are dispersed and dismantled, the more pressure is put on the Vietnamese enemy, militarily, economically, and politically. In its aggression against Cambodia, the Vietnamese enemy has used the strategy of supplying its war on the spot, that is recruiting Cambodians to fight fellow Cambodians in the service of the war of aggression and genocide and using the paddy and rice of Cambodians to support the war of aggression in Cambodia. Now that

more villages and communes have been liberated and more administrative networks have been dispersed and dismantled, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors face more difficulties because they can no longer force Cambodians to serve as soldiers, militiamen, or administrative officials, recruit the people to serve their K-5 plan, steal the people's paddy and rice, or fool anyone with their deceitful propaganda. At the same time, as we have liberated, dispersed, and dismantled more and more village and commune administrative networks, so more and more Cambodian people have dared to rise up and join the NADK in counterattacking the Vietnamese enemy and supporting the struggle through the use of their "three don'ts" weapon. All of this means placing many layers of pressure on the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, thus causing them to suffer even more seriously and to sink more deeply in the quagmire on the Cambodian battlefield.

As a matter of fact, the Vietnamese enemy has suffered worse shortages of manpower and food. Its troops have become more and more demoralized, lost the initiative, and keep deserting. They have become very desperate and pessimistic to the point that some of them have even committed suicide by shooting themselves.

This is the outcome of our offensive to attack two or three villages simultaneously.

Our national Army and people on all battlefields throughout the country pledge to intensify their offensive to attack more villages in order to shrink the Vietnamese enemy's supply sources to the point that the enemy is exhausted and, unable to tolerate such a serious situation, is compelled to leave Cambodia.

Three SRV Positions in Battambang Attacked
BK100548 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] On 5 and 6 April, our National Army raided three Vietnamese positions: a company position at Hill 400 and two platoon positions at the foot of Hills 400 and 340 on the Samlot battlefield [Battambang Province].

We killed 7 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded 13 others, and destroyed 15 assorted weapons, including 1 DK-82 gun, 5 B-40 and B-41 rocket launchers, 7 AK's, 2 pistols, 110 B-40 and B-41 rockets, 1 case of RPK ammunition, 14 cases of AK ammunition, 50 cases of 12.7-mm ammunition, 305 mines, and some war materiel. We seized 6 weapons, including a 12.7-mm machine gun, an RPK, an AK, 3 B-40 rocket launchers, 11 B-40 and B-41 rockets, 150 mines, 5 gas masks, and some war materiel.

Briefs

CGDK Delegation to ESCAP

A delegation of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea led by Bun Say, minister representing the KPNLF in the CGDK, will attend the ESCAP annual

meeting to be held in Jakarta on 11 April. Included in the delegation are two other members representing the KPNLF, Son Soubert and (Aok Serei Sopheak); and Chak Sarik and (Truong Meali), representing the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia. [Summary] *[BK100837 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 Glt T 10 Apr 88]*

First Quarter Returnees

In the first quarter of this year, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province received 586 misled persons. Among them were 241 Polpotists, 127 Sereiaks, and 218 Moulinaks, who brought along 485 assorted guns, 52 hand grenades, 33 mines, 51 artillery shells, 1 field radio, and numerous war materiel. [Excerpt] *[BK080850 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Apr 88]*

Indonesia

PRC's Liu Shuqing Views Resumption of Ties
BK120855 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0815 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Jakarta, April 12 (ANTARA/OANA)—The People's Republic of China (PRC) has expressed its hope for normalization of its diplomatic relations with the Republic of Indonesia which were frozen on October 30, 1967, in the wake of an abortive communist coup attempt (G 30 S/PKI) in 1965, within the nearest future.

We have expressed our hope for that end in a 2-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Alatas (on April 9) last Saturday, Deputy Foreign Minister of the PRC Liu Shuqing told an exclusive interview with ANTARA's journalist Pami Hadi here Monday night.

Liu, who is in Indonesia since last week at the head of a Chinese delegation to the 44th annual session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) currently underway here, said as far as Beijing is concerned, there are no problems for the resumption of the friendly relations between the two countries. We believe that the resumption of relations is for the good and meeting the hopes of the peoples of the two countries and is also in the interest of peace, friendship and cooperation in this part of the world, Liu said.

When asked what Alatas' response was to the Chinese hope, Liu smilingly said diplomatically: Please have an interview with Minister Alatas!

When further questioned whether or not there had been any indication on the part of Alatas of a possible fulfillment of the hope, such as a smile, Liu who always spoke Chinese throughout the interview, again diplomatically replied through his interpreter that his talks with Alatas were warm and full of smiles.

The PRC deputy foreign minister pointed out that Beijing followed closely the statement President Suharto had made in his speech of accountability before the General Session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) on March 1, 1988, that the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries depended on a pledge of the PRC not to interfere in the domestic affairs of others, Indonesia in particular, by assisting communist remnants.

With regard to the condition, Liu said his country will not meddle into the affairs of other countries.

He said China was one of the inventors of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, one important principle of which is non-interference in the affairs of others. China, on the other hand, also did not like others to meddle into its domestic affairs.

We attached great importance to the development of good neighborly and friendly relations with our neighbors, particularly with the countries in Southeast Asia, he said.

President Suharto has once again pointed to Indonesia's condition for the normalization of relations with the PRC when Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu referred to the matter in the course of the talks between the two heads of government at the Merdeka palace here on April 10.

Since the diplomatic relations between the two countries were frozen, the Chinese interests in Indonesia were taken care of by the Dutch Government.

When asked how many Indonesians are still living in the PRC, Liu said there were very few of them, and he could not give an exact figure. He only said that most of the Indonesians who came to the PRC in the 1960s have left the country. He said only elderly people and pensioners as well as those employed at different universities as experts or professors remained there.

He said the present Chinese Government forbade the Indonesians living in the PRC to engage in anything which may harm the good relations between China and Indonesia.

Liu described the relations between the two countries before the freezing of the diplomatic relations as very close and memorable.

He confirmed that the earliest resumption of diplomatic relations would increase the trade between the two countries following the opening of direct trade in 1985. Since then, he added, the trade volume between the two nations kept increasing with each passing year.

The normalization of the ties would also enhance the relations in other fields between the two countries.

It is only a natural and logical thing. The present situation is not fully normal, he said.

When asked whether Beijing is prepared to receive the Overseas Chinese now living in Indonesia, Liu expressed his hope they would not return to the land of their ancestors.

I hope the overseas Chinese in Indonesia take part in economic development and live in harmony with their neighbors and abide by the law, he said.

He said they have been staying in Indonesia too long, and have become accustomed to the local conditions.

When asked whether he hoped to meet President Suharto, Liu said in a diplomatic way that under Chinese tradition, as a guest he could only hope and everything depends on the arrangement of the host.

In this context, ANTARA asked whether there are any arrangements on the matter, he said with a broad smile: I don't know.

On the occasion, Liu praised President Suharto's leadership and the hard work the Indonesian Government and people have achieved a vast progress. [sentence as received]

He said Mrs Jiang Lian, a member of his delegation, who served the PRC Embassy in Jakarta from the late 50s up to the early 60s, reported a vast change and progress in this country. Liu conveyed the warm greetings of the Chinese people to the entire people of Indonesia.

He said the interview with ANTARA was the first of so many requests while he is in Jakarta.

Venezuelan President Arrives in Bali 12 April
BK120839 Jakarta International Service in English
0800 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Venezuelan President Dr Jaime Lusinchi arrived in Denpasar, Bali this afternoon to start a 3-day visit to Indonesia. He was greeted at Ngurah Rai Airport by Indonesian Minister of Mining and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita and Bali Governor Ida Bagus Mantra. The Venezuelan president and party will spend one night on the tourist island and are scheduled to visit some places of interest besides attending a banquet held in his honor by Balinese Governor Ida Bagus Mantra.

Tomorrow morning, President Lusinchi will proceed to Jakarta where he is scheduled to have talks with President Suharto on bilateral as well as international issues. At the same time, high-ranking government officials of the two countries will also have separate talks.

Laos

Spokesman Proposes More Talks With Thailand *BK121020 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao* 0000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Phanthong Phommahasai, acting director of the Foreign Ministry Information Department, granted an interview to our radio correspondent when he went to see off the Lao delegation to the annual ESCAP conference—headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat—at Wattai Airport last Saturday [9 April].

Asked when the next round of talks between the Lao and Thai Government delegations would take place, Phanthong Phommahasai, who served as spokesman for the Lao Government delegation, said:

[Begin recording] [Phanthong] The Lao side is still waiting for an answer from the Thai Government. The Lao Foreign Ministry sent a reply to the Thai side's proposal on 23 March 1988. The reply reaffirms that the Lao Government delegation is ready for a third round of talks with the Thai side. Therefore, when the third round of talks will be held depends on the Thai side's decision. We are of the opinion that the sooner they are held, the better.

[Unidentified correspondent] You said that the Lao side sent a reply to the Thai side on 23 March. Why did the Thai foreign minister tell the mass media on 28 March that the Lao side had not yet replied to the Thai side's proposal? Moreover, some Thai authorities even made various accusations to the effect that the Lao side was insincere.

[Phanthong] Regarding the interview given by the Thai foreign minister, on 25 March the Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman made an official statement on the Lao side's reply. Nobody knows his real intention. It must be the bad elements in Thailand who cooked up the slanderous news, for they are the enemy of friendly ties and peace between the two countries and the Lao and Thai peoples. It is not unusual for them to distort and make up news against Laos and other peace-loving peoples.

So far, the Lao side has clearly proven its sincerity and its desire to peacefully settle the dispute over Na Banoi Canton of Boten District. For example, the Lao side took the initiative of arranging negotiations between the two countries' military delegations and has proposed that both sides strictly and faithfully honor the Franco-Siam Treaty of 1907. During the two rounds of talks and in our Foreign Ministry's reply to the Thai side, the Lao side clearly stated that it agrees with the revival of the Lao-Thai border liaison committee in compliance with the joint communique of 1979 and the establishment of a joint technical committee. The Lao side also proposed that both sides adhere to the article of the protocol attached to the Franco-Siam Treaty of 1907 because it is the only article in the entire agreement that governs

delineation of the border between Laos' Boten District and Thailand's Chat Trakan. The article stipulates that the Heuang River, which originates from the Miang Mountain, is the borderline and therefore is regarded as the foundation for this committee's work.

I would like to reaffirm that the Lao side is now ready to hold a third round of talks with the Thai Government delegation. Perhaps it might have a new proposal reasonable for the Thai side—on the basis of the interests and dignity of the two countries and the Lao and Thai peoples and fair to both sides. It is hoped that the Thai side will reciprocate the Lao side's sincerity and goodwill. [end recording]

General Election Workshop Concludes 9 Apr *BK111155 Vientiane KPL in English* 0909 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Vientiane, April 11 (KPL)—A workshop to prepare for general election was closed here on April 9.

During the session which lasted more than ten days, over 70 participants from various state institutions studied and discussed documents relating to general election's regulations. They particularly dwelled on the draft law on general elections.

"The workshop, said an official in charge of the course, was to provide participants thorough understanding of the draft law in order to mobilize the citizens to take part in the general elections which will be held this year." [quotation marks as received]

Addressing the closing ceremony Sisomphon Lovansai, Politburo member of the LPFP CC, acting-president of the People's Supreme Assembly, stressed on important measures for ensuring success in the organization of elections.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives New Canadian Envoy *BK111158 Vientiane KPL in English* 0900 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Vientiane, April 11 (KPL)—Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs, on April 9 received here the new Canadian ambassador to Laos, Lawrence A.H. Smith. The Canadian chancellery is in Bangkok, Thailand.

Issues relating to strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries were discussed. Phoun Sipaseut also wished the new ambassador success in his mission for the interests of both peoples as well as for peace, stability in the region and the world.

Philippines

'Text' of Honasan Interview, Part II
HK120905 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 12 Apr 88 p 9

[Second part of DZXL Radio interview with dismissed Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan given a few hours after Honasan escaped from a prison ship on 2 April—location not given]

[Text] (Continued from yesterday)

Q: Okay, you have made several references to the feelings and perceptions of the rank and file at the moment regarding the present situation of the armed forces. What is your basis for speaking this way about the present state of thinking of the majority of the military in the country?

A: Well, psychologically, I guess, the families, the friends, the relatives of soldiers and the soldiers themselves have thought that in this situation or in the situation I was in when I was detained, I have nothing more to lose. So, I had become automatically the repository of this ground swell. And I have been the beneficiary of thousands or even maybe millions of input and I consider this a validation of this ground swell. And my role is just to articulate this for whatever it is worth. If I am wrong, we have all benefited from it. If I am right, then this government is in for a wide drive.

Q: Okay, articulation, Gringo. In what form will this articulation come? And next question will be more direct. Well, another coup be coming your way? I mean, our way from you?

A: Well, a very few people realize that I am basically a nonconfrontational person. But at this point in time, I guess, my role is more like a spokesman than a tactical commander. I am not in a position anymore to actively lead the coup, although that possibility is not completely put of the question. But the point is even the soldier just like the ordinary civilians are afraid of uncertainty. Soldiers are afraid of violence, soldiers are afraid of unknowns. So, I guess, the mentality of the soldier is more nonconfrontational also. And unless his back is again pushed too hard against the wall, it is safe for us to assume that there will be no violent upheaval in the same magnitude as the August 28 coup. But as I said, this remains to be seen since we are talking about basic issues which the ordinary soldier has realized and is in fact the issue of survival. There seems to be very little difference anymore between living and dying. Let me cite a very concrete example. The Mindanao problem seems quiet but a few weeks back we were faced with the prospect of refighting a war that we won a long time ago when I was a Lieutenant. Now, we are again faced with the prospect (if the situation in Mindanao escalates) of fighting in Mindanao. I will not be doing the fighting anymore. My contemporaries still in the service may not be doing the fighting anymore but definitely, soldiers will be doing

the fighting and dying and bleeding. Now, what moral right do we have to tell the soldiers to go out there and fight a war that we won 15, 20 years ago. It is so easy for the political leadership to say: "Prepare for war. We have unsheathed the sword of war. The Mindanao situation is becoming grave; we may have to fight if they were going to fight with us." But these are the people, the very same people who have made basic errors in judgment about evaluating the Mindanao situation. But it will not be there next on the line.

Q: Okay, Gringo, we discussed this earlier in the interview, the capture of top communist leaders, the raise in pay of the soldiers. There are still other issues like the armed forces has been reorganized, the Regional Unified Commands have been abolished, the generals who were scheduled to be retired have been retired on time. Don't you feel that you are running out of causes to fight for or issues to articulate as you say?

A: You know this is a matter of consistency. It is true we have retired most of the retirable generals but one still remains. Is this an exemption? Or is it an overriding consideration that is based on presidential prerogatives? The other thing is we have also closely observed the quality of people who have taken over and who have been promoted. Some or, generally, most but not all are still way below minimum standards of professionalism and competence and integrity. I firmly believe that we have a right, we in the rank and file (because I still identify myself with the lower levels) have a right to expect our generals to be more honest than the others. Now, if we cannot set this minimum requirement, there is no point in saying that we have turly restructured the system and we can see some marked improvements. Unless we apply the restructuring at all levels, vertically and laterally, consistently, then there will always be ground swell, there will always be significant gripes and there will always be factionalism.

Q: Gringo, even RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] has fallen to pieces. RAM is no longer what it used to be and it seems to be nonexistent anymore. Isn't this still another indication that the issues that RAM was tasked with addressing have also been properly addressed already and so RAM has died a natural death?

A: I think in the contrary; the objective before was for RAM to self-destruct once it becomes redundant in the light of tangible reforms in the military. But as it is, the RAM has been forced to disintegrate by the power politics in this country. But relating that question to another aspect of the so-called restructuring, at least, once upon a time, RAM served its purpose. In fact, we were relating it also to the class that just retired, the Class of '57 which just retired last April 1st. Now, we were asking these generals, these senior officers one basic question. We asked them: "Sir, what has your class contributed to enhance the unity of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]?" That is one question which you should answer before you retire and they could not.

They could not go beyond personal loyalties to the point where it jeopardized the very survival of the AFP. So, the retiring class, in general terms, has not contributed to the unity of the AFP. Now, contrary to what RAM has done, we must accept the fact that the RAM spearheaded certain initiatives during the last two years and that we cannot remove [it] from the history books. Regardless of what RAM is perceived to be now, it served its purpose once upon a time.

Q: Okay, Gringo, a lot of people have this in their minds, you being a military man, assuming that you are successful in affecting the changes that you say must be addressed to and must be directed, what will happen then to the time honored tradition and principle of civilian supremacy over the military?

A: You know civilian supremacy over the military is both a legal and a moral issue. On the legal aspect, there should be consistency because I feel that you cannot separate morality and legality because we hear judges say, "what is the spirit of the law?" It means that the basis for all laws, the basis for all legality is morality. Therefore, we can only accept the principle of civilian supremacy over the military when civilian authority sets the proper and consistent example. We cannot expect the rank and file in civilian sectors or in the military to follow laws, rules and regulations if the leadership does not itself follow laws and regulations. On that basis, there has to be leadership from the top. We do not make a cut-off level for application and implementation of laws. So that this is also we must realize looking back to history that when you talk of militarization, or rightists, we look back to martial law when it was supposed to be a situation that was dominated by the military until we realize that it was not a military mind or a military officer or a general who declared martial law. It was a politician. So, martial law was a political tool. Now, applying civilian supremacy over the military, even in a martial law situation during the last 21 years, we still have a civilian and a politician head over the military. So, what is the issue then?

Q: Okay, so if that is the case, who is going to be the judge of whether the civilian authority whether in the past, present or in the future is really aware of the problems or is deserving of both the moral and legal support of the armed forces?

A: Obviously, the constituents, the people, the sectors. Because I believe that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. It is so easy to answer questions like who? What? When? Where? These are answerable questions. But the basic question is why? Why are we this fragmented now? Why are we this divided?, why are we this polarized now? Why? So, the people must decide. If there continues to be a ground swell in the military sector and in the civilian sector which you can only feel (you cannot hear this in progress reports, command conferences, or state-of-the-nation addresses) you can only feel the ground swell. [sentence as published] But the question is why is

there still such a ground swell? So, the people again, the sectors, the constituents must decide on the basis of morality consistent with legality.

Army Chief Denies Military Support for Honasan
HK120837 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Philippine Army chief General Mariano Adalem admitted that security officers guarding Colonel Eduardo Matillano erred in letting Matillano escape. In his testimony before a Senate hearing this morning, Adalem said Matillano was first allowed to receive dental treatment in the company of some security men. When a dentist could not be found inside Fort Bonifacio, Matillano asked for one outside the camp. The security officers agreed immediately without checking on Matillano's intention to escape. Adalem did not say whether Matillano convinced his security guards to go with him.

Meanwhile, Gen Adalem denied allegations by Senator Ernesto Maceda that around 30 percent of military men may possibly support a new coup plan of Honasan. According to Adalem, he is ready to resign if even 10 percent of soldiers would support Honasan. [Adalem recording indistinct]

Mitra Denies Honasan, Military Officers Met
HK090512 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] House Speaker Ramon Mitra yesterday morning described as without basis newspaper reports that fugitive Gregorio Honasan met with at least 17 retired senior military officers and forged an alliance against the government.

Mitra criticized newspaper reporters and columnists for giving down to what he believes are rumors and speculations.

[Begin Mitra recording] Is there such a thing carried out by him or these people, and did it happen? There are none of these details which I was told when I was at (?public info) that you must ride in every [word indistinct] ferry. The ship keepers are not there. [end recording]

The speaker, apparently irked by yesterday's headlines in at least three dailies, turned his attacks against reporters and columnists who have been criticizing the government for warning against airing an interview with former Colonel Gringo Honasan. The speaker, however, said Honasan's detention without charges for 6 months had been too long. The EXPRESS reported in the paper the legislative move to make it mandatory for charges to be filed immediately against erring military officers and men so they can face court-martial proceedings.

Says Honasan Poses No Danger

*HK120715 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0500 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Text] House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr has said Gregorio Honasan lacks the capacity to create a military junta. In his speech before the organizational meeting of the Photography Girl of the Philippines Pageant at the National Press Club this morning, Mitra said Honasan does not pose a danger while President Aquino is away in China on an official visit. However, Mitra blamed the military for its laxity in handling security measures for military detainees, which resulted in the escape of Honasan and Colonel Eduardo Matillano.

Meanwhile, Mitra has called for sobriety, saying that the period of the president's trip to China presents Filipinos with an opportunity to manifest their unity.

General Says Honasan Wants To Form 'Junta'

*HK11111 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts
Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] NCR [National Capital Region] Defense Command chief Brigadier General Rodolfo Biazon has accused ex-Colonel Gregorio Honasan of having tried to form a military junta.

For more details, here is Jessica Soho.

[Begin recording in English] [Soho] In an interview with GMA News, Brigadier General Biazon revealed that Honasan may have wanted to form a military junta after the aborted coup attempt on 28 August.

[Biazon] How else can he impose the so-called reforms that he wants if not through the use of an iron fist, both on the society and the soldiers of this country. Because if, as I said, there will be a lot of resistance against whatever he has in mind.

[Soho] So it is inevitable for him to put up a military junta.

[Biazon] That is the only way. [end recording]

Meanwhile, checkpoints have been fortified in Metro Manila following reports that Honasan and his group may attempt to launch another coup.

According to Biazon, Honasan may still be in Metro Manila. He added that the checkpoints will also stop leftists from carrying out any operations.

[Begin recording in English] [Soho] Do you gave any indication that they are now trying to regroup?

[Biazon] That is exactly what they are going to do. Whether or not they have done it yet is another matter. For one thing, if they keep together, they become vulnerable. [end recording]

In a related development, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Colonel Oscar Florendo said the Judge Advocate General's Office [JAGO] has recommended the filing of court-martial charges against Honasan and 78 others. At the same time, JAGO also recommended dropping charges against 116 others for lack of evidence.

Military Clears Enrile of Honasan Escape

*HK081449 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 8 Apr 88 p 2*

[By staff writers Dionwsion Pelayo and Rowena Bundang]

[Text] Military authorities are not holding Sen Juan Ponce Enrile responsible for the escape of former Army Lt Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Maj Gen Ramon Montano, PC chief, said yesterday.

Honasan, leader of the August 28 coup attempt against the Aquino government, served as chief security officer of Enrile when the senator was minister of national defense.

Government troops raided Enrile's private beach resort in Nasugbu, Batangas, last Sunday in pursuit of Honasan, who bolted his prison ship in the Manila Bay before dawn on Black Saturday together with his 14 Navy guards. The raiders, however, found no trace of Honasan in Enrile's beach resort.

Enrile protested the raid in letters to President Aquino and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Gen Renato S. de Villa.

"Senator Enrile is not being held responsible for Honasan's escape. We do not think he was involved," Montano said. He added that the military had formed a special task force to track down and recapture Honasan.

"We continue receiving reports, many reports every day," Montano said. "We check out every report we get."

A new information that came up yesterday was that a foreigner visited Honasan during his detention in the BRP Andres Bonifacio.

Rep Michael Mastura (PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan—Nations Strength], Maguindanao), chairman of the House committee on public information, said Lt Cdr Fred Tuvilla, commanding officer of the BRP Andres Bonifacio, confirmed the foreigner's visit on Honasan in his testimony before the House committee on national defense on Tuesday.

Mastura said Tuvilla could remember only the foreigner's first name, Richard, and that the man, who looked like an American had introduced himself as a brother-in-law of a cousin of Honasan.

Tuvilla said Richard visited Honasan only once. He promised to submit the ship's logbook to the House panel so that the identities of Honasan's visitors during his detention could be traced.

During the same hearing, Mastura said, AFP Chief of Staff Gen Renato S. de Villa ruled out U.S. involvement in Honasan's escape, saying there was not enough evidence to pursue the angle.

Montano, whose unit captured Honasan last December 9, said pledges of rewards for the arrest of the discharged Army officer were not delivered.

"So many persons approached us and offered rewards for Honasan's capture. After we arrested him, they did not come anymore," Montano said.

Senators Urge Amnesty for 1,000 Coup Plotters
HK081423 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 8 Apr 88 pp 1, 10

[Text] A ranking military official yesterday said the Armed Forces has organized a task force to track down and recapture former Army Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

Speaking before the officials and members of the Quezon City Thursday Club at the Camelot Hotel, Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, Constabulary chief, said the task force is headed by Armed Forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa.

This developed as three senators recommended general amnesty for the more than 1,000 enlisted men who joined Honasan in the failed Aug. 28 coup to ease "The deep divisions in military."

Sen. Ernesto Herrera said he and Senators Ernesto Maceda and Juzn Ponce Enrile had asked de Villa in Wednesday's Senate hearing to recommend amnesty to President Aquino.

The senators said the continued detention of the minor participants in the failed coup is contributing to the tension within the military.

Worse, they said, the enlisted men have not been formally charged and are being detained on hazy grounds.

The pre-trial investigation has been dragging on for months without result and the only way to solve this is through a general amnesty.

Herrera said the general amnesty for the enlisted personnel would remove one of the major grievances which has been articulated by Honasan. He said he sees no danger in releasing the detained low-level putschists so they can return to their soldiering.

The detention of the enlisted men is one major reason behind the divisions in the military. Factions in the military, the senators claimed, believe that the present leadership in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is making life hard for those who participated in the failed coup.

Maceda said the current discord in the military is fueled by a clash between two very prominent former soldiers—Secretary of National Defense Fidel V. Ramos and Honasan.

Maceda told the closed-door hearing there is a raging "personal enmity" between Ramos and Honasan, both central figures in the February 1986 civilian-backed military revolt at EDSA [Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue] which toppled Ferdinand Marcos.

Maceda said in the closed-door hearing the military has been virtually split into a Ramos faction and a Honasan faction and neutral forces caught in between.

Maceda said he has learned from his sources that several naval officers have been demoralized by the appointment of former Coast Guard Commandant Carlito Cunanan as flag-officer-in-command of the Navy.

The security lapses which made Honasan's escape easier were linked by some INQUIRER sources to the present discord over Cunanan's appointment as Navy chief.

"The Navy is the problem area," said Maceda, adding that the disunity in the Air Force was recently solved with the appointment of Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Eduardo Sotelo as deputy chief of staff of the AFP.

Shoot-to-Kill Order on Honasan Opposed
HK120925 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[By Tony Bergonia and Lindablue Romero]

[Excerpts] Filipino businessmen, nervous over new threats of a coup, had agitated for a shoot-to-kill order on Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan but the Cabinet and the military, wanting to capture him peacefully, rejected this, Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said yesterday.

The military was ordered, meanwhile, to take "better measures" to prevent detained cohorts of Honasan and other putschists from escaping from detention. The President issued the order as he described as unfortunate the escape of Lt Col Eduardo Matillano, former PC commander of Nueva Ecija, soon after Honasan's.

Benigno was earlier quoted as telling a radio interview that the businessmen, after being informed of the rejection of their demand, then planned to offer a reward for Honasan's capture.

Benigno later denied saying a group of businessmen were offering a reward for Honasan's capture. "I simply said I have reports that the private sector might offer a reward. There's a difference between an affirmative statement and saying you have reports."

He said he has heard reliable sources say that "the business community might put up a reward."

At the Senate, Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos told the committee on defense he favors placing a price on Honasan's head but only if the amount is shouldered by the private sector.

"Secretary Ramos is against the government putting up a price for Honasan but he is in favor of it if the private sector volunteers," Sen Ernesto Maceda, committee chairman, told newsmen later.

In his first statement after his escape, Honasan has strongly hinted that he would try again to launch another coup attempt and called on his followers to "act and act boldly."

Benigno said Matillano, who escaped from his detention cell at Fort Bonifacio last Friday after he was allowed to visit the camp's dentist, was not considered a threat.

"There is no cause for undue alarm," he said. "Matillano is only a shadow of Gringo.... He is just a minor actor in Gringo Honasan's play."

Benigno also minimized Honasan as a threat to national security. "Honasan no longer has capability to mount a big coup," he said.

Briefing reporters after his committee's hearing, Maceda also said the Articles of War may be too harsh on soldiers and that he agrees with Ramos to recommend to Congress the review of its provisions to lessen unrest in the military.

Maceda also revealed that:

—Honasan "gave his word of honor" to former Navy chief Tagumpay Jardiniano that he would not escape. This, Maceda said, might have led authorities to relax on Honasan's security.

—Lt Virgilio Alcantara, the executive officer of the "Andres Bonifacio" said Honasan was treated "like an officer and not like a detainee."

—He has received "inside information" that Matillano was allowed to use his own car prior to his escape from Fort Bonifacio.

—He agrees with a proposal of Ramos to release detained soldiers who have "served their sentences" and deploy them to provinces to fight insurgents.

—Ramos admitted that detention facilities are "insufficient" and this may have contributed to the escape of Honasan and Matillano.

Ramos told the committee he has been assured by Armed Forces chief of staff Gen Renato de Villa that the military is prepared to repel any attack from Honasan's group during the President's visit to China.

But he admitted continuing dissensions in the military and said some resources have to be shifted from fighting the communist insurgents to guarding against a coup attempt.

"The orders are very simple. The coup will be crushed," he told reporters when asked about preparations for Ma Aquino's China trip.

Press Secretary on Honasan Reward, Matillano
HK110741 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno has today announced that a group in the private sector is willing to pay a reward for the capture of former Colonel Gregorio Honasan. Honasan escaped from his detention ship, "BRP Andres Bonifacio", last 2 April, along with 14 naval guards.

According to Benigno, the proposed reward for Honasan's capture would be formally announced in the next few days. Benigno made the statement in a radio interview this morning.

[Begin Benigno recording] What I know is that a group in the private sector is now moving to put up a very tempting reward offer for the capture of Gringo. I still don't know how the movement by the private sector is progressing. I know there is such a movement, and I guess the reward offer will be announced within a very short time. In the Cabinet meeting, this issue was never discussed. This was suggested by the private sector, and I doubt if the president would refuse it—I doubt if she will go public and ask. I think she will just remain quiet. [end recording]

Benigno also called on the people not to worry over the escape last Saturday of PC Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Matillano because he is just a shadow of former Colonel Gregorio Honasan. Benigno made the announcement in a Manila radio program this morning.

[Begin recording] Even if Matillano's escape came after Honasan's escape, there is no cause for undue alarm. And like I have said several times, Matillano is just a shadow of Gringo, and in so far as he is only Honasan's shadow, he does not possess Gringo Honasan's capabilities. Even if he has escaped, which was reported immediately by the media, he is just a minor actor in this drama played by Gringo Honasan. [end recording]

That was Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno.

ASEAN Favors U.S. Bases Retention

*HK121217 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Text] Five ASEAN member-states have agreed to make official their stand on the retention of the two U.S. bases in the Philippines.

It was learned today that Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei have sent a telegram to the Philippine Government officially expressing support for the retention and continuous presence in the Asia-Pacific region of the U.S. military bases.

Meanwhile, the sixth ASEAN member, the Philippines, has refused to give its position on the issue of the U.S. bases to the organization. It said the situation in Asia in relation to the bases issue is a bilateral concern of the Philippines and the U.S.

U.S. Said 'Confident' of Retaining Bases

*HK110825 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING
POST in English 11 Apr 88 p 3*

[Text] The American military bases in the Philippines were necessary for peace and stability in the region, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, Mr Gaston Sigur, said yesterday.

And he said the United States was confident of reaching an agreement with the Philippine Government to retain the bases.

The United States has six bases in the Philippines, including Clark air base, a naval base at Subic Bay and four smaller installations.

The United States and the Philippines last week began an interim review of the pact governing the use of them. The talks could determine whether the United States will be allowed to maintain the installations after the pact expires in 1991.

Mr Sigur, in Hong Kong after tours of South Korea and Japan, told a press conference at the American Consulate yesterday, that he could not say when the agreement would be concluded.

"Maybe later this year or next year," he said.

The Philippine bases support United States military forces deployed in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean-Persian Gulf region.

Asked how far the United States was prepared to go to keep the bases in the Philippines, Mr Sigur said: "We want to reach an agreement if we can because we feel it is important for the Philippines and this region.

"We, however, are not going to stay there if they do not want us."

On the threat posed by fugitive Lieutenant-Colonel Gregorio Honasan to Philippine President Corazon Aquino, Mr Sigur said she was handling the "friction within the military" correctly and had the major support and confidence of her military.

On the Soviet Union's presence in the region, Mr Sigur said the continued expansion of its military strength in this region and the Pacific was "bothersome" but that there was no need to worry.

He said the countries in this region had a "fairly good understanding of the Soviet Union's economic and political policies" and that "no one was rushing into their arms".

Commenting on the disputed Spratly Islands issue, over which Chinese and Vietnamese warships clashed last month, Mr Sigur said: "We hope there will be no more military clashes and that the confrontation will end."

The United States, Mr Sigur said, did not support any side in the issue.

Asked whether the United States would play a behind-the-scenes role to help ease the confrontation, Mr Sigur said the United States had no intention of becoming involved at the moment.

Major Factors on U.S. Bases' Talks Reported

Contribution to Economy Cited

*HK081421 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
8 Apr 88 pp 1, 2*

[By G.M. Chavez]

[Text] Spending by the American military facilities in the Philippines contributed a maximum of \$1.5 billion to the economy during the period 1980-1986, or equivalent to 5.16 percent share in Gross National Product (GNP). This percentage roughly corresponds to the contribution to GNP of the finance and the housing sector in 1987.

This was one of the findings of a study conducted by the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP).

The study observed that spending by the bases is, in fact, an income contribution to the economy which is respent internally, stimulating more production and expanding economic opportunities. U.S. bases-generated expenditures impacted on the economy during the period to the extent of an annual average of about 3.8 percent of GNP, with a minimum GNP share of 1.08 percent (\$379 million) and a maximum of 5.16 percent.

The dollar expenditures of the agencies, personnel and visitors of the American facilities augmented the import capacity of the economy by as much as 1.4 percent to 3.9 percent resulting in potential additional contributions to the GNP to the extent of 1.4 percent to 2.9 percent, the study said. The net dollar earnings ranged from \$126 million in 1980 to \$220 million in 1986.

The potential GNP contribution ranged from \$503 million in 1980 to \$873 million in 1986. Beyond its monetary effects, spending by the bases resulted in the direct and the indirect employment of thousands of Filipinos, ranging from 177,000 in 1980 to 136,000 in 1986.

However, the total benefits, at least in 1986, did not exceed the total costs associated with the presence of the U.S. bases. Components [subhead]

On the benefit side, the largest component was the impact of the spending which amounted to \$1.53 billion or 64.4 percent of total benefits.

This was followed by compensation (\$542 million or 23 percent), protection from aggression (\$178 million or 7.5 percent), savings in defense spending (\$123 million or 5.2 percent), and a little savings due to foreign military sales (0.83 million or 0.2 percent). total benefits amounted to \$2.4 billion, roughly \$323 million less than the total costs of \$2.7 billion.

The largest component of the total costs was the annual risk the country would be paying in money terms for getting protection from aggression in case of nuclear attack. Expressed in terms of the expected nuclear damage, this was valued at \$1.82 billion or more than two-thirds (67.5 percent) of the total costs of allowing the presence of U.S. bases.

The other components were land rental foregone (\$493 million or 18.3 percent), differential labor cost (\$379 million or 14 percent) and bases maintenance costs (\$0.30 million or .01 percent).

Nonetheless, the study noted that the perceived positive economic impact has considerably influenced public attitude regarding the retention or removal of the U.S. military facilities in the Philippines. Survey [subhead]

This was borne out in a survey conducted by NDCP last year among respondents consisting mainly of businessmen, employees, retirees, as well as students in Metro Manila, Clark Airbase, and Subic Naval Base. These respondents were grouped according to employment status, education and geographic identification.

Fifty-two (52 percent) of the respondents indicated they were in favor of retaining the bases. This composite favorable response was 22 percentage points higher than those who were opposed (30 percent). About 18 percent expressed indifference.

The favorable stance was evident especially among those classified according to employment status, with the businessmen and retirees registering the most favorable (64 percent to 22 percent) and the students the least favorable (44 percent to 36 percent), with strong positive response from both the employed (54 percent to 29 percent) and the unemployed (52 percent to 30 percent).

Also, there was indication that majority of the respondents were in favor of pressing for better terms as a condition to the continued presence of the U.S. bases.

Daily Reviews Important Issues

HK111211 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
11 Apr 88 p 10

[By Maria Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] The current tussle between the Philippines and the United States in the on-going military bases review may yet end up with the U.S. pulling the shorter end of the string.

Observers noted over the weekend that should negotiations fail to arrive at a reasonable compromise, the U.S. may pull out its forces sooner than expected. Already Admiral David Jeremiah, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said that Guam could be a fallback position in case demands of the Philippines prove to be too expensive.

However, Ambassador Nicholas Platt's previous declaration which equates a successful review to increased foreign investments, should not at all cow the Philippine panel into submission. The Japanese economic mission over the weekend pledged support for the country with or without the U.S. bases.

Added to this were the recent revelations by Steve Psinakis, a leader of the Ninoy Aquino Movement (NAM) and Leyte mayor Charles Avila which "placed a great deal of blame on the Reagan-Bush administration for the brutal murder of Ninoy Aquino." This could likely deal a fatal blow on U.S. hopes for retention.

Apprehensive [subhead]

On this, Sen. Wigberto Tanada said he is apprehensive of possible U.S. designs to destabilize the Philippines just to promote American interests. "The complicity of U.S. Government officials in the escape of former Col. (Gregorio) Honasan and the U.S. helicopter buzzing... of Malacanang cannot now be discounted, with the Psinakis-Avila expose on Reagan-Bush double talk on Philippine affairs," he added.

Meanwhile, ex-Sen. Lorenzo Tanada, chairman of the People's Review of the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) held at the UP [University of the Philippines] Law Center, told BUSINESS WORLD over the weekend that he foresees stormy negotiations in the duration of the

bases review. He made this comment in the light of reported American objections over alleged press leaks regarding the split of opinions on revisions of the "unhampered military operations" clause.

"There are far more important matters to attend to than being piqued over this matter (press leak)," he remarked.

Stand [subhead]

He gave BUSINESS WORLD a copy of his committee's stand on the U.S. bases which unequivocally advocates the immediate removal of these military facilities. The document echoed the following initial findings: inconsistency of the MBA with Philippine sovereignty, the threat posed by the bases on the survival of the Filipino people, the "insult and shame" caused by the bases which impair any friendly relation between the Philippines and the U.S., and the contribution of the bases to the present Philippine economic crisis.

He explained that the MBA should be viewed in the light of the provisions of the Constitution. "That is why they have enshrined in the new Constitution two significant provisions, one, banning all nuclear weapons within the territory of the Philippines and the other, prohibiting the existence of foreign bases, troops, and facilities after 1991."

Key [subhead]

He noted that among the most important reasons why he supported the ratification of the 1986 draft Constitution were precisely because of these two provisions. He saw in these provisions the key to the country's final liberties.

As to how he would go about making known his committee's stand, he said he would furnish the Philippine panel as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of his resolution. "Knowing them (DFA and the Philippine panel), they would probably just read it," he added.

Labor Factors Considered

HK081303 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English
8 Apr 88 p 7

[By staff member Lito Zulueta]

[Text] The principal issue that will dominate the forthcoming review of the Bases Labor Agreement (BLA) will be the application of Philippine laws consonant with Philippine sovereignty over the U.S. military facilities, Labor Undersecretary Ricardo Castro disclosed yesterday.

Castro is expected to head the Philippine panel in the review of the BLA, which governs labor relations in the bases. The accord was signed in May 1968.

"The bases are here in the Philippines," Castro said. "Why shouldn't Philippine laws be applied in their full force and effect?"

Specifically, the Philippine panel will move that the Labor Code be observed in the bases, Castro said. This will allow the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) to act on the resolve labor disputes, he added.

Once the Dole is allowed to rule on labor disputes, the Joint RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Labor Committee (JLC) is likely to be dissolved. This committee arbitrates disputes in the bases, and Castro heads the Philippine panel in it.

The JLC is "impotent" because it does not have any adjudicatory powers, Castro said. He added that the composition of the committee—with equal representation for the two governments—often leads to irresolvable stalemates.

Castro foresees vehement objection from the U.S. when the Philippines formalizes its demand for the application of Philippine labor laws in the bases. He said, however, that the U.S. might compromise based on the play of forces, especially in the ongoing review of the Military Bases Agreement.

"Generally, they will agree, but I guess they will talk about exemptions," Castro said, noting that the exemptions might lead to another form of "Agreed Minutes," the current supplement to the BLA.

Roberto Flores, president of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association (FFCEA) in both Subic and Clark, had called for the deletion of a substantial portion of the "Agreed Minutes."

Flores had explained that the BLA provisions on preferential employment of Filipinos, collective bargaining and other matters are voided by the "Minutes." For instance, while workers are assured of their right to collective bargaining in the BLA, the "Minutes" provides that wages and other compensation items are not subject to any bargaining.

Wage increases in the bases are determined by a periodic technical survey of the salaries of employees of the top 36 firms in the country. The weighted average and other data are then sent to Hawaii, where the U.S. commander of Pacific sets the final wage rates.

In a related development, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), to which the FFCEA is affiliated, called on the government to name at least one workers' representative to the Philippine panel in the BLA review.

Democrito Mendoza, TUCP president, agreed with Castro that the principal issue in the review would be the application of Philippine labor laws in the bases.

The Philippines, he said, should strive to correct the "gross disparity" of wages between Filipino workers and their American counterparts, and even those workers in the American bases in other countries.

Security Issues Discussed

*HK120939 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 6*

[By GLOBE staff writer Julius Fortuna with report from Miguel Genovea]

[Text] Sen. Rene Saguisag, a member of the treaty-ratifying body for the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement [MBA], said yesterday that the United States should make good the promise it made 40 years ago to withdraw its troops and bases from foreign countries.

"They (the U.S.) started withdrawing in the '40s. At some point, that process has to be completed," Saguisag said. "It is really anomalous for foreign troops and bases to be in somebody else's country."

Saguisag was reacting to a statement of Admiral David E. Jeremiah, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, made in Tokyo last Saturday.

Jeremiah said the U.S. military is ready to move out its bases out of the Philippines if the Philippine Government demands too high a price.

"Everything has its price. You can only go so far," Jeremiah said.

Saguisag described the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement as "anomalous" and an "aberrational arrangement." He added that there is no stipulation that the bases could stay in the Philippines indefinitely.

At the Philippine International Convention Center [PICC], the U.S. and RP panels for the MBA review discussed base security, legal and court jurisdiction, and procedures for discussing the conditions of labor inside the bases.

The sixth session of the negotiations resumed after U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt arrived Sunday night from Hong Kong, where he attended the annual conference of U.S. Chiefs of Mission in East Asia.

The U.S. panel presented papers containing the Americans' proposals on "crisis measures" and other security problems in the six U.S. installations in the Philippines.

Ambassador Leonides Caday, a member of the Philippine panel, said during a press briefing that the American proposal includes such specific items as control of base security forces, access, prosecution, trespass prosecutions and the role of the regional trial courts.

Caday also said the U.S. position also includes recommendations on "compensation offsets" and "earmarks for security." The legal question of appearances for defendants was also included in the U.S. position, he said.

Under the 1979 amendments to the MBA, the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] was given responsibility for the security of the perimeter of the bases, except for the cryptographic areas and other places where classified information is stored.

Assisting the Philippine panel in yesterday's meeting were AFP Brig Gen Artemio Tadiar, deputy commander of the Subic Naval Base, and Col Cezar Go, deputy base commander of Clark Air Base. They helped clear the proposals of the U.S. panel, Caday said.

Included in yesterday's agenda was the submission by the U.S. side of its notes on the Bases Labor Agreement. The Philippine side is expected to comment on the U.S. position today.

The negotiations have been limited to morning sessions. Caday said the new schedule would give both sides time to study the proposals made in the mornings.

In a related development, the AFP issued a directive prohibiting all members of the Armed Forces from discussing the bases issue while the MBA review is going on.

The directive on the moratorium is contained in "messages" sent to various military regional commands, according to sources.

The policy emanated from the office of Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, the same sources said.

Meanwhile, security at the PICC has been beefed up. Col Emiliano Templo, deputy commander of the Capital Regional Command, has been assigned to supervise security at the MBA review site.

Arrival of U.S. Officials to Talks Reported

*HK110755 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 11 Apr 88 pp 1, 10*

[By Jim Gomez]

[Text] Ranking Pentagon and U.S. State Department officials quietly slipped into Manila yesterday as the U.S. and Philippine panels resume today the review of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. military bases agreement.

A few days earlier, Karl D. Jackson, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for East Asian and Pacific affairs, also flew into Manila but his presence was not made public by the American embassy.

Jackson, diplomatic sources said, is known for his opposition to the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone (NWFZ) in Southeast Asia.

Among those who arrived unannounced yesterday were Ronald Spiers, undersecretary of state for management; Mary Ryan, Spier's executive assistant; and E. Parks Olmon, executive director of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Scheduled to arrive today are John Clark, assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, and Royce Fitchte, a member of Clark's staff.

Diplomatic sources said the Washington officials may have been sent to Manila to back up the U.S. panel negotiating for the retention of several U.S. installations, among them the giant Clark air base in Pampanga and the Subic naval base in Zambales.

The review of the bases agreement began April 5 but it was suspended three days later when the American negotiators led by Ambassador Nicholas Platt protested the leakage of the details of the talks to reporters.

Officials Praise Manglapus Talks Performance
HK111201 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 11 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[By GLOBE staff writer Julius F. Fortuna]

[Text] The Philippine panel in the current review of the Military Bases Agreement meets today with its U.S. counterpart for the second round of negotiations with a clear psychological advantage.

The Philippine Government last Friday accepted the "unilateral explanation" of the U.S. Embassy and the Subic Naval Base Command concerning the overflight of a U.S. Navy helicopter over the prohibited air zone in Malacanang last April 6.

Kenneth Quinn, U.S. deputy chief of mission in Manila, telephoned Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig to relay the U.S. Government's apology, pledging that the incident would not happen again.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus told reporters last Saturday that "as far as I am concerned, the problem is over," squelching reports that the Philippine Government had planned to file a formal diplomatic protest.

Observers believe that Manglapus will enter today's negotiating room riding high on a risen popularity rating as a result of a good performance last week.

Last Wednesday, Manglapus proposed to change the provisions of the existing agreement—from "prior consultation with" to "prior consent of" the Philippine Government concerning entry of nuclear arms in the bases. The move was generally welcomed by those interviewed by the GLOBE.

In random interviews with a number of people in a number of coffee shops and institutions, Manglapus's performance was adjudged as "good."

"Lumalaban din pala [So we do fight back]," one Makati businessman told the GLOBE. A retired journalist, who said he is aware of Manglapus's image as an American boy in the 50s, said the Foreign Secretary seems to be "treading a new ground."

Last Saturday, Manglapus's speech was well-applauded by their Filipino veterans who heard him bat for justice for those who fought during World War II.

"While the American and Japanese veterans have presumably been recompensed by their grateful governments, our veterans who fought for America have yet to receive their full dues under U.S. Public Laws," Manglapus had said.

Observers interviewed by the GLOBE also say that the general tone of his Araw ng Kagitingan speech at Fort was impressive as it questioned the old premises of "mutuality of interests" with the U.S.

And in clever phraseology, Manglapus hinted of his knowledge of possible heavy weapons stored in the U.S. bases when he said that "missiles aimed at some external target do not help us in this internal struggle."

For today's discussion, the two panels will be moving on to other issues, including the ticklish issue of criminal jurisdiction involving offenses by U.S. servicemen committed on and off-base.

In five sessions last week, the two panels had reached agreement on only two issues, namely, the need to convene a separate panel to discuss the bases labor agreement and a resolution to recommend the convening of a separate panel to discuss the claims of veterans during World War II.

In a press briefing Friday, Ambassador Leonides Caday said that the agenda "develops from day to day," while Manglapus said that in the meetings, the two sides simply "present positions to each other."

Thailand

Hijack Weapons 'Unlikely' From Bangkok

BK121223 Hong Kong AFP in English
1202 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Bangkok, April 12 (AFP)—Airport investigators said here Tuesday it was highly unlikely that the weapons aboard the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner diverted to Cyprus were smuggled onto the aircraft at Bangkok.

But reliable sources here, who asked not to be identified, said some Thai agencies believed that the weapons were probably smuggled aboard the Kuwaiti Airways Boeing 747 in Bangkok. They did not elaborate.

(An International Air Transport Association (IATA) official said in Canada Monday the weapons may have been smuggled aboard the Kuwait Airways passenger jet at Bangkok via a ramp used by caterers, engineers, loaders and cleaners and possibly "through the coercion or collusion of staff on the ramp.")

Airport Authority of Thailand [AAT] Deputy Managing Director Anek Udit told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Tuesday that security was "very thick" at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport. "We have aviation security from the International Civil Aviation Organization working with us all the time," he said.

Mr. Anek, who is monitoring an investigation into the hijacking, said it would have been theoretically possible to smuggle weapons aboard an aircraft here, but he believed terrorists would not risk getting caught at Don Muang.

"I don't think terrorists would take a chance. If they're caught all their plans have to be demolished," he added.

Mr. Anek said Thai airport security personnel and a local security team hired by Kuwaiti Airlines kept a close watch on caterers and cleaners.

He said cleaners were not required to go through metal detectors before boarding aircraft but were frisked by the security squad.

Mr. Anek said he was convinced the weapons were already aboard the plane when it arrived here from Kuwait on April 4. The plane was bound for Kuwait from Bangkok when it was taken over on April 5 by hijackers who demanded the release of 17 Islamic militants jailed in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Mr. Anek said investigations suggested that people boarding the plane, who might be the hijackers, had flown from Kuwait, disembarked at Bangkok and boarded again—possibly with false passports. "This is our assumption."

Henrik Hansen, managing director of the MPA Security Company hired by Kuwaiti Airlines, told AFP he did not think the weapons were smuggled aboard the aircraft by either caterers or cleaners.

He said too many people would have had to have been involved, including the Thai International Airline catering staff providing food trays in boxes.

Mr. Hansen said the Kuwait Airways cabin crew "have to handle each single tray," and if they were on the hijackers side "then anything is possible."

(In Singapore, sources attending an IATA technical committee meeting said the organization considered airport security in Bangkok and Kuwait to be good.

(Any arms taken aboard in Bangkok were unlikely to have passed through normal airport security channels, but could have been smuggled onto the plane with the complicity of flight servicing operations staff, the sources said.

(Asked whether this meant IATA was looking at the possibility of an inside job, the sources said it was.)

Agreement Reached on Lao Border Markets

BK120147 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Nong Khai—Markets will open either side of the border on alternate weekends under an agreement worked out by Thai and Laotian officials yesterday.

The Laotians proposed the market open in Ban Chiang Khuan, Muang Hat Sai Fong, Vientiane and at Wat That Tai, Tambon Hat Kham, Muang district, Nong Khai.

The Thai side, led by Governor Santi Manikan, contended that since there are two border crossings in Muang district through which goods are channelled to Laos, the Thai weekend market be set up either in Sangkhom, Si Chiang Mai, Tha Bo or Ponpisai districts.

A source said that after some debate, the two sides agreed the Laotian weekend market be set up in Ban Chiang Khuan with the opening date to be fixed by Vientiane.

The Thai side, meanwhile, will tell Vientiane when, and in which of the four districts the market will open.

On tourism promotion, the source said the Laotians agreed to a cruise trip along the Mekong river from Muang to Sangkhom districts with a brief stopover for food and drinks in Vientiane on the way back.

The Laotians would not accept tour groups visiting Vientiane at this stage, maintaining they would like to see the result of the cruise trip first.

Vientiane agreed to send a cultural troupe to perform here on April 15 to celebrate Songkran [Buddhist New Year].

General Chawalit Speaks on National Security
BK110131 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday he would not allow a coup to take place as long as he remained in his position.

Gen Chawalit said a coup would not benefit Thailand and he pledged that the country would never return to a state of "civil war", in an apparent reference to communist insurgency.

In an address on national security at a seminar attended by businessmen, Gen Chawalit, who has said he would resign this September at the age of 55, said national security was now at a satisfactory level.

International organisations have ranked Thailand tenth in the list of countries with high security, he said.

They have also said the country has the potential to become a newly industrialised country, or NIC, he said.

Ten years after the arrival of constitutional monarchy in 1932, Thailand was plagued with coups and dictatorial practices in various forms and the people were deprived of their rights, he said.

The circumstances spawned the Communist Party of Thailand and led to armed struggle and insurgency.

Military forces were used to quell the communist insurgency and many lives were wasted, he said, indicating folly on the part of authorities.

"We learnt later that the more the communists were hit, the stronger they grew," Gen Chawalit said at the seminar organised by the Social Welfare Council of Thailand at the Army Training Command Department.

"We changed our strategies in 1980 and found it easy to quell communism," he said. "The right weapon against communism is democracy. Use of military strength will never work.

"We have taken the right path and worked for true democracy. The military knows this better than others," he said.

The military could no longer be branded a democracy killer, he said, admitting that in the past the military had been used incorrectly by politicians.

Stressing the need to make people enjoy democracy to the fullest extent, he said.

"If we are genuinely democratic, countries around us will not dare to touch us.

"They dared to act against us in the past because they knew socialism could win over dictatorship. But it will never win over democracy," he said.

Apart from democracy, the Army commander said the country should be made to prosper economically and the gains distributed effectively to all the people.

Regarding the Green Northeast project, he said there must be investment in the region, which is the most important in terms of national security and territorial integrity.

"This was why the Army had to step in to carry out the project according to the wishes of His Majesty the King.

"In order to help the people generate income there must be investment there," said Gen Chawalit.

In a statement seen as relating to his handling of the Ban Romklao conflict, Gen Chawalit said he was as patriotic as other people in the country.

"I knew very well what I was doing and what was going on. I am not the kind of person to be easily outwitted," said Gen Chawalit.

Paper Says Soviets 'Key' to Cambodia Issue
BK110045 Bangkok THE NATION in English
11 Apr 88 p 8

[Editorial: "...What About Kampuchea?"]

[Text] In announcing the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Gorbachev said that it "should not be regarded as a present to President (Ronald) Reagan on the eve of his visit to the USSR." But what the withdrawal actually means is that it will erase a major topic from the agenda of the discussions to be held. By the same token, it will mean that during the May 29-June 2 summit plenty of time will be available for the two superpowers to discuss the Kampuchean problem.

All governments concerned about the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea are agreed that the key to the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops lies with the Soviet Union. Reagan should take up the matter of Vietnamese troops withdrawal as seriously as he took up the Afghan issue in his last summit with Gorbachev in December. Those preparing for the summit are very sceptical about a strategic arms control accord and so Reagan could make the Kampuchean issue the centrepiece of his discussions.

No person is more articulate, eloquent and qualified to impress this point on Reagan than Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. Lee will be in Washington this week and he will take up this matter seriously. Of course

he has other matters like trade problems and the U.S. bases in the Philippines to discuss but we are sure that Lee will see the importance of the Kampuchean issue being taken up by Reagan when he meets Gorbachev.

Lee's visit to Washington will be reinforced by our Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon going to Moscow just before the superpower summit. One of the fundamental objectives of Gen Prem is to persuade Gorbachev to use his influence to end the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea. Gorbachev, during his three years in the Kremlin, has established himself as a broad-minded person who is willing to listen to reason and, we are sure, he will lend a sympathetic ear to Prem's arguments.

Unit Forming To Protect Cambodian Refugees
BK120145 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Thailand is forming a new unit to protect Kampuchean refugees after Western countries and human rights groups complained of widespread abuses by a paramilitary task force, an officer said yesterday.

Col Sanan Khachonklam, of the Supreme Command's Operations Division, said the Displaced Persons Protection Unit would be operating on the Thai-Kampuchean border by the end of June. Col Sanan said international organisations and nations that contribute to the Thai refugee relief effort had complained of abuses by Task Force 80, which since 1980 has been in charge of security for 250,000 Kampuchean in camps along the border.

The Western officials "were concerned and said they would like to see improvements", he told AP.

"We also wanted to see changes and are responding to that.

"By improving our people and increasing our responsibilities, we will be able to provide better security to those inside the camps."

Col Sanan said Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and the military chief of staff, Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, concluded last October that the paramilitary unit must be "upgraded and staffed by people of calibre".

The new unit of 560 defence volunteers is to work with the Army and Task Force 80, he said.

The United States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, voluntary organisations and the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights were among those who complained about the task force.

In an influential report issued in February 1987, a delegation from the New York-based lawyers' committee said its tour of the border area revealed "an alarming incidence" of abuse by the task force rangers.

"Rangers have robbed, beaten and raped the residents of some camps, with apparent impunity," the report said.

Present Policy on Boat People To Continue
Bangkok THE NATION in English
11 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[By Sinfa Tansarawut]

[Text] Thailand will continue to push off Vietnamese heading toward Thai shores in the East and South, and all new Vietnamese arrivals will be denied third-country resettlement, the national security chief said.

Suwit Suthanukun, secretary general of the National Security Council, said the push-off must be maintained "for the time being" to deter Vietnamese arrivals.

He also ruled out the possibility of a screening programme for Vietnamese boat people, citing the "bitter experience" Thailand has had with the screening for Laotian asylum seekers.

Vietnamese who manage to land on Thai shores will be sent to Site 2, a border encampment of displaced Khmers in Prachinburi province, and will be barred from going to third countries, Suwit said in an interview with THE NATION Friday.

He indicated that the push-off and resettlement ineligibility will continue until Thailand is certain that Vietnamese arrivals will not surge again. He did not specify a time frame.

"Situations will dictate our policy," he said.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday it was trying to persuade the Thai government to stop turning back Vietnamese boat people and restore their right to land while awaiting resettlement in third countries.

The United States and the international community would like Thailand to restore its "generous first asylum status," State Department spokeswoman Christine Bartock said.

Suwit said Thailand has never changed its refugee policy since it began accepting Indochinese refugees in 1975. While humanitarian principles have been upheld, they must not contradict Thailand's sovereignty, national interest, and national security, he said.

He said the policy has always been observed, but at the moment the Thai concern for its own security overwhelms the humanitarian principles.

"The recent arrivals were not refugees, but illegal immigrants who sought better life abroad," Suwit said.

Arrivals of boat Vietnamese jumped from 3,886 in 1986 to 11,195 last year. Many of the recent arrivals came through smuggling rackets—involving Vietnamese, Kampuchians and Thais—which led the asylum seekers across Kampuchea and loaded them on boats to Thailand. Several Thai officials were recently removed from Trat province, a common refugee landing spot.

Suwit said Vietnamese who are housed at Site 2 will be assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). However, he said the Vietnamese will not receive better treatment than displaced Khmers in the camp, who are fed by the UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO).

"We don't want to create discrimination between the Khmers and the Vietnamese," he said.

UNHCR has the Geneva Convention to back up its mandate while UNBRO, created under the World Food Programme particularly to assist the border Khmers, has no such support. UNBRO officials can stay in the border camps only from 8 am to 5 pm, while UNHCR officials have a 24-hour presence in the refugee camps under its assistance.

The distinction was a major concern for voluntary agencies at a meeting Friday, when an official of the National Security Council read a policy announcement. Relief workers said UNHCR will not be able to carry out its protection mandate without 24-hour presence at Site 2.

However, observers believe that UNHCR responsibility for boat Vietnamese at Site 2 opens the notion that the Vietnamese may be eligible for resettlement in the future.

Thailand started moving boat Vietnamese to Site 2 on March 16. Suwit said they will be housed in living quarters next to land Vietnamese who crossed the Kampuchean border to Thailand. The land Vietnamese are eligible for resettlement.

Vietnamese Towed Back to Sea
BK100246 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Apr 88 p 2

[Excerpt] Marine police on Thursday pushed back to sea 26 Vietnamese who landed by boat on the coast of the southern province of Nakhon Si Thammarat, a senior provincial police officer said yesterday.

The Vietnamese arrived at a shrimp farm Friday night in the province and the farm owner reported their arrival to the police, said Pol [Police] Lt Col Phongthep Praphatanan, chief inspector of Muang district police station.

Phongthep said he reported the incident to Governor Niphon Bunyaphattaro, who then ordered marine police to tow the Vietnamese back to sea. It is not known what happened to the Vietnamese, who were given food before being sent back into the Gulf of Thailand. [passage omitted]

Official on Terrorism in Southern Border Area
BK100920 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] According to Prakrit Uttamot, director of the Southern Border Provinces Administration Center, terrorist activities have become more intense in general. Such activities included the abduction of teachers and schools being set afire, which occurred frequently last month; but the problem has now subsided. Prakrit said the 4th Army Region and agencies concerned recently discussed the terrorism problem in the south and agreed that psychological operations must be launched to make people understand the situation.

Prakit said the official assessment is that the terrorist movement numbers about 200 strong and the recent increase in its operations stems from the change of the head of the Pattani United Liberation Organization. There are also indications that foreign-trained terrorists have been active and using their influence and gain more external support. Prakrit, however, refused to identify the countries supporting terrorist activities in the southern border provinces.

Asked by newsmen if there will be coordination with the Foreign Ministry to help tackle the terrorist problem, Prakrit said the available evidence is not concrete and, therefore, the Foreign Ministry cannot do much. Asked about the people's morale, Prakrit said the people's morale is good and that they disagree with the abduction of teachers and school burnings, as evidenced by their contributions to build a new school to replace one that burned, which shows that they properly understand the terrorist problem.

Vietnam

Spratly Positions Reconnoitered by PRC
BK111515 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] As reported earlier, on 14 March after having perpetrated crimes in Co Lin, Len Dao, and Gac Ma reefs in the Sinh Ton group of islands of Vietnam's Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago, China dispatched warships and marines to control and then occupy the Gac Ma coral reef, one of our 22 islands and coral reefs, and stationed troops on the Truong Sa Archipelago. At the same time, in early April, China occupied the Subi coral reef, southwest of the Thi Tu group of islands, on our path of movement between the island group of Nam Yet and the Song Tu Tay and Da Nam Islands.

In the first 10 days of April 1988, under the guise of conducting scientific surveys for peaceful purposes, China continued to have its warships reconnoiter the coral reefs in the vast area east of the Sinh Ton, Nam Yet, Song Tu and other island groups in Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago. China also continued to obstruct Vietnam's rescue boats in the Gac Ma, Len Dao, and Co Lin areas, and intensified reconnaissance of our 21 positions in the Truong Sa Archipelago as cited here below:

1. Song Tu Tay at 11.25.30 degrees north latitude and 114.20.00 degrees east longitude.
2. Da Nam at 11.23.00 degrees north latitude and 114.18.00 degrees east longitude.
3. Nam Yet at 10.11.06 degrees north latitude and 114.21.30 degrees east longitude.
4. Da Lon at 10.04.30 degrees north latitude and 113.51.00 degrees east longitude.
5. Son Ca at 10.23.00 degrees north latitude and 114.28.38 degrees east longitude.
6. Do Thi at 10.24.30 degrees north latitude and 114.34.30 degrees east longitude.
7. Sinh Ton at 09.52.30 degrees north latitude and 114.19.10 degrees east longitude.
8. Sinh Ton Dong at 09.52.30 degrees north latitude and 114.34.40 degrees east longitude.
9. Co Lin at 09.45.00 degrees north latitude and 114.13.40 degrees east longitude.
10. Len Dao at 09.45.40 degrees north latitude and 114.21.50 degrees east longitude.
11. Phan Vinh at 08.58.00 degrees north latitude and 113.41.30 degrees east longitude.
12. Toc Tan at 08.50.50 degrees north latitude and 114.00.00 degrees east longitude.
13. Nui Le at 08.46.00 degrees north latitude and 114.11.00 degrees east longitude.
14. Yen Nu at 08.52.30 degrees north latitude and 114.39.00 degrees east longitude.
15. Truong Sa at 08.38.25 degrees north latitude and 111.55.00 degrees east longitude.
16. Truong Sa Dong at 08.55.00 degrees north latitude and 112.24.00 degrees east longitude.
17. Da Lat at 08.38.30 degrees north latitude and 111.40.30 degrees east longitude.
18. Da Day at 08.52.00 degrees north latitude and 112.15.30 degrees east longitude.
19. Da Dong at 08.50.00 degrees north latitude and 112.34.30 degrees east longitude.
20. Thuyen Chai at 08.13.00 degrees north latitude and 112.20.50 degrees east longitude.
21. An Bang at 07.52.10 degrees north latitude and 112.54.42 degrees east longitude.

Dinh Nho Liem Briefs Ambassadors on Spratlys

Receives Lao, Cambodian Envoys

BK121110 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Mr Dinh Nho Liem, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, first deputy foreign minister of Vietnam, on Tuesday cordially received in Hanoi Bouasi Chaleunsouk and Tep Hen, respectively ambassadors of Laos and Cambodia to Vietnam.

Mr Dinh Nho Liem informed the two ambassadors that at present, Chinese authorities continue sending warships or illegal operations in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago of Vietnam. Chinese naval forces also occupied some coral reefs and prevented Vietnamese rescue boats from fulfilling their mission.

Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem said these acts of China are in violation of Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity, directly threatening security of Vietnam and other Eastern Sea rim countries, undermining peace and stability, and the growing trend for dialogue in Southeast Asia.

On this occasion, Mr Dinh Nho Liem highly valued the victories recorded by the Lao and Cambodian peoples in all fields. He affirmed Vietnam's support for Lao stand regarding a solution to the recent border dispute with the Kingdom of Thailand, for Cambodian policy of national reconciliation and its stand on the political solution to the Cambodian problem on the basis of respect for the right to self-determination of the Cambodians and an end to all outside interferences.

The ambassadors of Laos and Cambodia expressed the wish that China soon respond to Vietnam's proposals which they believe to respond to the fundamental interests of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, and conform to the aspirations of the peoples of Laos and Cambodia, the close neighbors of Vietnam.

Meets Swedish Ambassador

BK111618 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—First Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs Dinh Nho Liem received here today Carl Erhard Lindahl, Swedish ambassador to Vietnam.

The two sides exchanged views on measures to continue promoting the multi-sided relations between the two countries.

Dinh Nho Liem expressed the deep gratitude of the Vietnamese Government and people to their Swedish counterparts for their effective assistance.

He also informed the Swedish ambassador of Vietnam's just stand and goodwill attitude in settling its disputes with China over the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago through negotiations.

The Swedish diplomat expressed his sympathy and wished that all problems would be solved through peaceful negotiations. He also reaffirmed that Sweden would continue to help and cooperate with Vietnam in economic construction so as to contribute to peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Media View Spratly Islands Conflict

Paper Reports Army Activities

BK101108 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1000 GMT 10 Apr 88

[From "Review of Hanoi Press for 10 April"]

[Text] QUAN DOI NHAN DAN front-pages an article entitled "Set Course of Naval Group M-28 of Truong Sa" [Spratly Islands]. Also on its front page, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reports that the Truong Sa Group has conducted a firing practice to improve its fighting efficiency and combat readiness.

NHAN DAN Examines Conflict

BK091545 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—The Hoang Sa [Paracel] and Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelagoes issue between Vietnam and China is essentially a question of territorial sovereignty and question of how to resolve differences, said an article written by Quang Loi and published by the national daily NHAN DAN today. Following is the gist of the article: For 40 years now, the United Nations has paid much attention to promoting its charter's principle of non-use of force in international relations. Most notable was its adoption of a declaration on the principles of international law governing friendly and cooperative relations among nations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (October 24, 1970) and a resolution defining aggression (December 14, 1974).

The ban on the use of force in international relations represents earnest desire of the whole mankind and also a fundamental principle of modern international law, particularly at a time when the danger of a nuclear holocaust is hanging over everyone and when imperialism, expansionism, hegemonism, Zionism and apartheid are threatening the independence and peaceful life of nations. One cannot form a correct opinion of China's external policy without considering its specific attitude toward the principle of non-use of force in international relations, especially its behaviour to neighbours.

Beijing claims that China is a "peace-loving country". Indeed there was a time when China did support this or that national liberation movement, the Indochinese countries' resistance wars for national liberation, for instance. However, China's expansionist and hegemonist policy toward neighbouring countries, which showed very clearly in the war of aggression against India in 1962-63, in the war of aggression against Vietnam in 1979, in persistent claims to "lost territories", and in the interference in the internal affairs of many other countries, has given the peoples of Southeast Asia many more reasons to doubt Beijing's self-professed observance of the principle of non-use of force in relations with other nations.

A case in point is the issue of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes. The two archipelagoes have long been parts of Vietnam's territory and long organized into administrative units of the Vietnamese state. The Vietnamese state has effectively, continuously and peacefully exercised its sovereignty there. The two archipelagoes have never belonged to China and the Chinese state has never implemented its functions in accordance with the criteria of international law. Its occupation of Hoang Sa and a number of coral reefs in Truong Sa long after Vietnam had laid claim on these groups of islands, is an illegal act.

On August 15, 1951, the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China arbitrarily declared Xisha (Hoang Sa) and Nansha (Truong Sa) parts of Chinese territory.

Beijing's territorial claim violated Vietnam's territorial sovereignty and set the positions of the two sides apart. As has been made very clear by the charter and many resolutions of the United Nations, all disputes must be settled by peaceful negotiations or a legal solution. But Beijing has opted for the use of force.

Up to 1955 there had been only debates between Beijing and other concerned parties on the history and legality of the two archipelagoes.

From 1956 on Beijing replaced words with acts, beginning with Hoan Sa.

In 1956, Chinese troops, disguised as fishermen, made a sudden landing on a group of islands in the eastern part of the Hoang Sa Archipelago before Saigon troops had time to replace French troops there. In 1959, Beijing resorted to the same tactic regarding the islands in the western part of Hoang Sa. This time it failed, and 82 "fishermen" were taken prisoners.

Then China set about building Hoang Sa and Yu Lin Port on the southern coast of Hainan Island into a major Chinese military base in the Eastern Sea and modernizing the Chinese Navy. At the same time it conducted

many naval exercises and made Hainan (pop. 6.5 million) a full province to cover both Hoang Sa and Truong Sa. This year, China has been trying to push further south to Truong Sa.

On January 21, ten Chinese warships moved into the archipelago. On January 31, four Chinese warships, including two missile-carrying destroyers, provoked two Vietnamese cargo ships on a routine mission at Chu Thap, a coral reef, while a number of Chinese troops landed on the place. On February 18, four Chinese warships occupied Chau Vien, another coral reef. On March 14, six Chinese warships, three armed with missiles, fired at and set ablaze three Vietnamese freighters at the coral reefs of Gac Ma, Co Lon and Len Dao in the Sinh Ton group long garrisoned by the Vietnamese Army. At times there were as many as 20 Chinese warships in Truong Sa.

All these activities have been described as "routine" by the Chinese Foreign Ministry which also demanded that Vietnam withdraw from the coral reefs in the region.

The truth is that China has used force to occupy the Hoang Sa Archipelago and part of the Truong Sa Archipelago. Even now a big Chinese naval force is deploying around the newly occupied coral reefs. Moreover, Beijing has said no to negotiations, and ignored a bilateral commitment not to use force pending the holding of negotiations. What does its attitude mean? Will Beijing refrain from the use of force pending negotiations, or will it resort to force again? Public opinions, first of all the public in the region, want Beijing to engage in peaceful negotiations which is the only correct way—the way of reason.

Commentator Views PRC Actions

OW120031 Hanoi International Service in Mandarin
1130 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Station commentator's article: "Dialogue Follows the Trend of the Time, While Confrontation Goes Against It"]

[Text] The peaceful atmosphere in the waters of the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago has been broken by gunfire. The dark clouds hovering over the relations between Vietnam and China have worried the people of both countries. All the people concerned with peace and stability in that area feel uneasy. Three weeks have passed since the 14 March incident. However, newspapers and radio stations in various countries frequently still carry news items on this incident, because the situation in that area is becoming more and more serious, and it affects the relations between Vietnam and China and the security of the area.

People are disturbed by the 14 March incident. China has mobilized 10 warships with 100-mm guns and missiles, helicopter-carrying naval vessels, and submarines,

and seized a total of six reefs in the Truong Sa Archipelago. China also prevented Vietnamese rescue boats from saving Vietnamese sailors in the water. The cargo ships on which those sailors worked were sunk by Chinese vessels. Some of the sailors were cruelly slaughtered by the Chinese, while 74 people are still missing in action. The action taken by the Chinese authorities to encroach on Vietnamese territory is blatant and flagrant. However, they adopted the tactics of confusing truth and lies to hoodwink the Chinese people and world public opinion, saying that their vessels were there to conduct peaceful surveying work and that they were forced to counterattack in self-defense because of Vietnam's provocative activities. But, this kind of fraudulent tactic can hoodwink nobody. World opinion has exposed the plots of the Chinese authorities in a timely manner. The Indonesian newspaper LIBERTY pointed out: It is quite obvious that China provoked the conflict in the Truong Sa Archipelago. The Indonesian newspapers MERDEKA and INDONESIA OBSERVER said: The action taken by the Chinese authorities in the waters of the Truong Sa Archipelago creates a new tense situation in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Listeners, Vietnam is an obstacle to China's efforts to carry out its expansionist strategy in Southeast Asia. The fact is: Prior to January, China had never [passage indistinct] at the Truong Sa Archipelago. The incident in the waters of the Truong Sa Archipelago shows that the Chinese warships have flagrantly intruded into Vietnamese territorial waters and fired at Vietnamese cargo ships in defiance of international law, and that the situation became tense only after they blatantly carried out military provocations.

In face of the unreasonable actions of the Chinese authorities, Vietnam, on the one hand, had reaffirmed its own sovereignty over the Truong Sa Archipelago, while on the other hand, it had repeatedly exercised self-restraint, because it cherishes the friendship of the Chinese people. It also repeatedly suggested that the Chinese side conduct negotiations at the government level to solve the issue of Truong Sa Archipelago and other border questions, and that both sides not resort to the use of force while waiting for the negotiations to start, so that the situation will not continue to deteriorate. The sincere suggestion by Vietnam has promptly won acclaim and approval from world opinion, particularly the public opinion in the various countries in the local area.

It is regrettable that the Chinese truculently rejected Vietnam's proposal, saying that it was (?unreasonable). At the same time, the Chinese continued to seize and occupy reefs in the Truong Sa Archipelago and prevented Vietnamese rescue boats from carrying out work in their own territorial waters. The Chinese also threatened Vietnam by saying that, if Vietnam refused to withdraw from the archipelago, an (?allout) war was inevitable. World public opinion has pointed out that disputes and differences between countries arising from

territorial and boundary matters have always been a complex issue. The only way to solve such an issue is through international law, restraint, or peaceful negotiations, but not through military action. Because of this conviction, world public opinion has expressed great interest in the statement issued by the SRV Foreign Ministry on 17 March. The statement says: Vietnam consistently stands for solving the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa issue and other boundary problems through negotiation. Vietnam has taken note of the statement by then Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping during his talks with the late General Secretary Le Duan in Beijing on 27 September 1975: The two countries can solve their political problems involving the archipelagoes. Vietnam and China held negotiations on boundary and the Beibu Wan issues in 1974, 1977, and 1978. The negotiations were suspended in March 1980 at the suggestion of the Chinese. The Vietnamese party, government, and people, as in the past, will always persist in solving the Truong Sa Archipelago and other boundary disputes through negotiation with China, because this accords with the desires of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples and people throughout the world. Besides, to do so is in accord with reason and international law. If the Chinese authorities are bent on settling issues through the use of armed force, their isolation at home and abroad is bound to increase. Besides, the people of various countries will certainly denounce and condemn China's (?inhuman) policy.

Naval Victories Over Imperial China Recalled
BK110230 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 10—This year the Vietnamese people will celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Bach Dang naval battle, a most resounding victory which distinguished itself by its scale and mostly by the ingenuity of the commanding general, Tran Hung Dao, in the Tran Dynasty. This battle against a large invasion army of the Mongols took place on April 9, 1288 on the Bach Dang River, about 40 km from the Bay of Ha Long. Tran Hung Dao provoked the enemy fleet into battle and lured them deep into the hinterland passing over rows of huge wooden stakes concealed by the rising tide. When ebb tide began he ordered a counterattack.

Most of the enemy war boats broke on impact with the pointed stakes. A temple dedicated to Tran Hung Dao was later built in Lien Hoa Village, now in Quang Ninh Province where the final counterassault of the Vietnamese navy and ground forces was launched.

There is another temple for the worship of "Queen Lady," an old woman owner of a tea inn on the bank of the Bach Dang River who, an oral story says, was asked by Tran Hung Dao to complete his battle tactic.

Recently, a field of iron-tipped wooden stakes has been discovered by chance in Yen Giang Village, Yen Hung District, Hai Hung Province, by a group of canal diggers,

some of the stakes have been preserved almost intact. In Quang Yen Town, Quang Ninh Province, there still live two iron-wood trees which botanists estimate to be at least 700 years old. The 1288 battle was the third battle of the Vietnamese people against the Chinese aggressors on the Bach Dang River.

The first took place in 938, in which General Ngo Quyen (899-944) had killed the commander of the Nam Han army, Huang Tao, after luring him into battle and driving his fleet into a field of pointed wooden stakes planted during the rising tide.

History seemed to repeat itself when only three years after the second Bach Dang Battle, in 1285, the same Tran Hung Dao inflicted a third and even more bloody defeat on the Yuan aggressors.

Whether the three crushing blows dealt by the Vietnamese army had really saved the whole of East Asia and South Asia from Mongol subjugation remains a matter for debate. But one thing is certain, they had struck a heavy blow at the expansionist plan of the Mongol emperor and his heir prince and enhanced the national pride of all the people in Extreme Asia.

Leaders Greet China's New Leadership
BK111510 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] On the occasion of the election of new leaders by the First Session of the PRC National People's Congress Seventh Legislature on 11 April, SRV Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong sent a congratulatory message to PRC President Yang Shangkun; SRV National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao sent a congratulatory message to Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Wan Li; and acting Chairman of SRV Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet sent a congratulatory message to Premier of the State Council Li Peng. The messages wished the traditional friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and China and the neighboring relations between the two countries be restored soon for the interests of the two peoples and for peace in Asia and the world.

Philippine Congressman on Ties, U.S. Bases
BK090757 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT
9 Apr 88

[All quotations marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—Jose V. Yap, chairman of the Committee on National Defense of the House of Representatives of the Philippines has issued a press statement on his visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from March 28-31.

The statement read:

"I visited Vietnam from March 28 to 31 in my capacity as chairman of the Committee on National Defense of the House of Representatives as part of a continuing study being conducted by my committee to determine the nature of the international environment regarding peace, disarmament, and relevance of U.S. military bases in Philippine territory.

It is of vital interest to our country to determine if there is external threat to the Philippines' independence and sovereignty.

My visit and my talks with pertinent political leaders of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam confirm the assertion previously made by President Corazon Aquino that there exists no external threats to our country coming from Vietnam.

The Vietnamese leaders I have talked with asserted the necessity of building enduring peace between Vietnam and the Philippines to promote the economic cooperation and cultural exchanges between our two countries.

I am very much impressed with the courage of the Vietnamese people their fight for their independence against imperialist incursions for thirty years. They fought to gain their independence and sovereignty. They fought the longest war in modern times against the French and the Americans until they won their victory and independence.

Now Vietnam is building a strong nation for the Vietnamese people. They have opened their doors to legitimate foreign investors. Many nationalities and private businessmen are now bringing in economic and business enterprises. Many overseas Vietnamese are sending their contributions for the reconstruction of Vietnam.

I am recommending to the Aquino administration the expansion of our relations with Vietnam, especially in the economic and cultural fields, under the aegis of peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence between our two countries.

As regards to U.S. bases in the Philippines, it is my strong belief that sooner or later the superpowers will be compelled to dismantle their military bases outside of their territories in line with the ever-growing disarmament process going on between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Committee on National Defense which I head is quietly doing deep and comprehensive studies on all aspects of our national security and on what the Philippines might be able to contribute in the coming new age of peace among all nations.

In conclusion, I wish to express that there can be no acceptable alternative to peace, friendship, cooperation and understanding among nations, because the alternative is war and destruction of mankind."

Vu Mao Appointed New Head of Amity Association
BK090226 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] On 8 April, the Vietnam-Kampuchea Friendship Association held an expanded conference to review its work in 1987 and to discuss its orientation and tasks for 1988.

In 1988, the association will concentrate at all levels throughout the country on concrete activities to satisfactorily organize the celebrations of major events such as the 10th anniversaries of the KUFNCD, the signing of the SRV-PRK Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation, and the PRK National Day. At the same time, the association will organize activities aimed at introducing Cambodia, its land and people, and the achievements recorded by the Cambodian people in their revival.

All organizations of the association will also intensify their work to promote a better understanding of and full support for Cambodia's policy of national reconciliation among our people, to show support for the correct foreign policy pursued by the Cambodian party and state in seeking a solution to the Cambodia issue. The association considers these activities to be practical deeds contributing to the enhancement and consolidation of the special relations between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples.

The conference approved Comrade Phan Trong Tue's proposal that he be relieved of his post as president of the association for health reasons, and appointed Comrade Vu Mao, member of the CPV Central Committee and director of the Office of the National Assembly and Council of State, as his successor.

Agreements for 1988 Signed With Cambodia

Economic, Cultural Cooperation
BK101540 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 10—The Vietnam-Kampuchea Economic and Cultural Cooperation Commission held its ninth session in Phnom Penh on April 8-9 to review the implementation of economic and cultural cooperation programs between the two countries in 1986-87 and work out the plan for this year.

On April 9, the Vietnamese head delegate Dang Thi, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the Commission for Economic and Cultural Cooperation With Laos and Kampuchea, and Tang Saroem, minister for economic and cultural cooperation with foreign countries, head of the Kampuchean Government economic delegation, signed an agreement and the memos on economic, cultural, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries in 1988.

According to these agreements, the two sides will broaden their multiform cooperation, and Vietnam continues to help Kampuchea in personnel training and send specialists to Kampuchea when requested.

The signing was witnessed by Kong Sam-Ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Civil Aviation Memo

*BK101545 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 10—A memo on civil aviation cooperation for 1988 between Vietnam and Kampuchea was signed in Phnom Penh yesterday.

Under this memo, signed by Hoang Ngoc Dieu, head of the Vietnam Central Department of Civil Aviation, and his Kampuchean counterpart, Phan Nguon, Vietnam will continue to help Kampuchea train flight commanders and stewardesses, [and] send experts and pilots to Kampuchea to help in the direction of air traffic. The two countries will enhance cooperation in air transportation and organizing tourist tours.

Joint Fishery Company Set Up With USSR

*BK100835 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA OANA April 10—A joint fishery and seafood processing company has been set up by the Sea Product Export Company of Vietnam and the Primoprom Company of the Soviet Union.

The joint venture, named Sea Primfico, specializes in processing sea products and equipping and repairing sea trawlers.

Investments will be made equally by each side.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Indonesian Ambassador

*BK111555 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—Vo Van Kiet, member on the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and acting-chairman of the Council of Ministers, received here today Indonesian Ambassador J.P. Louhanapessy who is concluding his term of office in Vietnam.

At the reception, Vo Van Kiet expressed his satisfaction at, and welcomed the Indonesian diplomat's contributions to the development of Vietnamese-Indonesian friendship and cooperation in various fields political, economic, cultural and military, in the past period. After recalling the fine results of his 1987 visit to Indonesia, Vo Van Kiet valued highly President Suharto's advocacy of accelerating the establishment of a zone of peace

and stability in Southeast Asia. He expressed his wish that Ambassador Louhanapessy will, in his new post, continue to contribute to developing the friendship between the two countries.

On his part, the Indonesian ambassador expressed his sincere gratitude to the government and people of Vietnam for their assistance and close cooperation with him during his mission in Vietnam. He said he believed that the strengthening of the Indonesian-Vietnamese relations will not only meet the interests of the two countries but also constitute an important factor for strengthening peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

Burundi Ambassador Presents Credentials

*BK091544 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—Burundi Ambassador to Vietnam Gateretse [spelling as received] today presented his credentials to Vice-President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho.

The Vietnamese leader had cordial conversation with the Burundi diplomat.

Romanian Economic Delegation Arrives

*BK081542 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 8—A Romanian Government economic delegation led by Ludovic Fazexas, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Hanoi today [8 April] to attend the 9th session of the Vietnam-Romania Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government.

It was greeted by Nguyen Khanh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Vietnamese Section of the Intergovernmental Committee; Mai Ky, deputy head of the State Planning Commission; representatives of the Foreign Ministry and others.

Joint Economic Commission Meets

*BK091559 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—The Vietnam-Romania Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation held its 9th session here today.

Present among others were Nguyen Khanh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman

of the Vietnamese section of the said commission; Ludovic Fazekas, Politburo member of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Romanian section of the said commission; and Dumitru Gheorghe, Romanian ambassador to Vietnam.

At this session, the two sides will discuss main issues aimed at promoting the economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of agriculture, building materials and communications and transport.

Overview of Criminal Procedure Code Given
BK111351 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The Socialist Republic of Vietnam criminal procedure code is composed of 7 parts, 34 chapters, and 286 articles.

The first part, which contains the general provisions, is composed of six chapters on fundamental regulations, juridical agencies, amendment of proceedings, people involved in lawsuits, evidence, crime prevention measures, records, time, and court fees.

The second part covers investigative procedures and is composed of eight chapters that deal with instituting legal action in a criminal case; investigative agencies and general procedures for investigation; bringing action against and interrogating defendants; getting statements from witnesses and victims; searching, examining, and surveying crime sites; temporary suspension and conclusion of investigations; and control of law order in the conduct of investigative activities.

The third part, which covers preliminary examining procedures, is composed of eight chapters that deal with jurisdictions of the court, trial preparation, general regulations on court proceedings, procedures for beginning a court session and for hearing and questioning in court sessions, debating in court sessions, consulting judges and passing sentence, and procedures for trying defendants in hiding or living overseas.

The fourth part covers examination of an appeal and is composed of two chapters that deal with the nature of an appeal, the right to lodge an appeal and a protest, and hearing and deciding an appeal.

The fifth part covers the execution of sentences and court decisions. It is made up of five chapters that detail the general regulations on executing sentences and court decisions; the implementing of death, imprisonment, and other sentences; the reduction of terms of punishment; and repeal of a judgment on appeal.

The sixth part is on the procedures for reexamining sentences and legally effective decisions. It is composed of two chapters that outline the procedures for ordering and reviewing a judgment.

The seventh part, which deals with special procedures, has three parts that detail the procedures for handling cases of minor criminals, for applying compulsory medical treatment measures, and for shortening procedures.

The specific contents of the various articles and laws will be published by the press.

Politburo Resolution on Agriculture Management
BK120955 Hanoi VNA in English 0737 GMT
12 Apr 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 12—The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee has issued a resolution regarding the renovation of economic management in agriculture. Excerpts follow:

"The agricultural policies issued since the 6th Plenary Session of the party Central Committee (4th Congress-1980), particularly the resolution on the product-based contract system applied to production groups and peasant families, have enhanced the sense of mastery and enthusiasm of the peasantry and given a new fillip to agricultural production; progress has also been made in afforestation and in the combined agricultural forestry economy. The output of aquatic products for export has increased remarkably and due attention has been paid to marine products raising. There have emerged some good models and new factors in both production and management in agriculture.

In recent years, however, agriculture in our country has developed slowly with a low commodities rate. In many regions, autarchy and monoculture are still prevalent. Over the past two or three years the output of some agricultural products, especially food, has decreased.

This situation has stemmed from the following main causes:

—The absence of an overall strategy for socio-economic development;

—In the reorganization of production and in the socialist transformation of agriculture we have taken an oversimplistic view of socialism, particularly with regard to the initial stage of the transitional period; underestimated the law on the correspondence of the production relations with the productive force; not firmly grasped the specific of natural, economic and social conditions in different regions and given inadequate attention to the principle of voluntariness, mutual benefit and democratic management;

—We have committed serious mistakes in the working out of major policies regarding agriculture.

—The organizational and managerial system from the centre to the grass-roots has retained many irrationalities, and become more and more cumbersome and inefficient.

The renovation of economic management in agriculture must aim at the following objectives:

—Release the productive force, well combine reorganization of production with socialist transformation, increase the material and technical bases and better apply technical advances into production;

—Enhance the capacities of all economic sectors, all regions and branches; and

—Convert the predominantly autarkical agriculture in many localities into a commodity-producing agriculture.

To this end, we should concentrate on key food producing areas, especially the Mekong and Red River Deltas and the rice-growing areas in other localities. At the same time, we should form major areas specializing in cash crops, build more processing establishments and use more and more staples other than rice in our diet in order to quickly raise the commodity food reserve.

In the mountainous regions, it is essential to quickly develop forestry, long-term industrial crops and cattle raising.

In the coastal areas and on the offshore islands, it is necessary to develop an integrated economy involving agriculture, forestry, fishery, salt-making and marine transport, expand fisheries, aquatic products raising and processing.

In forestry, the primary task lies in afforestation. Forest protection and reafforestation.

Concerning the agricultural cooperatives and production groups, the resolution stipulates the following:

—To consolidate the cooperatives embracing a whole commune, to reduce the size of too large cooperatives in a number of lowland and midland provinces in the north, the central coastal area and the Central Highlands which show signs of stagnation in production and mismanagement, if so requested by the co-op members.

In the lowlands of the mountain areas, the agricultural-forestry and forestry-agricultural cooperatives should be formed chiefly at the village or hamlet scale.

In the highlands, only those cooperatives which are operating fruitfully should be retained, the rest should be converted into mutual-aid or work-exchange teams or private holdings. This must go together with a good network of travel and services, improvement of roads to stimulate economic interflow, raise the cultural level of

the population, and the training of government workers from among the ethnic minorities. Collective farming in appropriate forms should be practised only where conditions permit.

—In southern Vietnam, in the immediate future, the main form of cooperative farming should be the production groups.

Concerning the management of the cooperatives and production groups, the resolution provides for the following: They have to build their own work-norms and price-units as basis for their production plans which are to be carried out through "contract quotas" assigned to co-op members. These norms and price-units must be publicized right from the beginning of a cultivation season.

The state encourages private citizens to contribute capital, manpower and technique to developing production; encourages various forms of cooperation between individuals and private households, between those who have capital, means of production, work skills and those who have manpower. The principle of voluntariness, mutual benefit, democratic management must be strictly abided by as well as the principle of mutual benefit in the organization of joint state-private enterprises in agriculture.

The state encourages Vietnamese residents abroad and foreign economic organizations and private individuals to send machines, equipment and materials to their relatives in Vietnam or contribute capital in joint production or trading ventures with the Vietnamese Government in agriculture, forestry and fisheries according to the Law on Foreign Investment.

The resolution also provides for the renovation of a number of major policies, first of all, the investment policy regarding agriculture, including investment in agricultural science and technology research. A comprehensive policy shall be worked out to encourage the development of food production and to ensure reasonable profits for the producer. The resolution also has a special clause about the reorganization of the personnel management apparatus and personnel work.

Agricultural Tax Collection 'Unsatisfactory'
BK100740 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] To date, only 15 provinces and cities have paid their 1987 agricultural tax. They include Quang Ninh, Hoang Lien Son, Son La, Vinh Phu, Thai Binh, Hai Hung, Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Ha Son Binh, Ha Nam Ninh, Hanoi, Binh Tri Thien, Nghia Binh, Quang Nam-Danang, and Gia Lai-Kontum. Dong Thap, Tien Giang, Phu Khanh, Lai Chau, Ha Bac, and Haiphong Provinces also made progress and achieved fairly good results.

Generally speaking, the results of 1987 agricultural tax collection efforts are unsatisfactory and low compared with last year. By 15 March 1988, only 80 percent of the overall tax collection target for 1987 had been fulfilled by the entire nation. Minh Hai, Hau Giang, Long An, Tay Ninh, Song Be, and Lam Dong Provinces achieved low results. Compared with 1986, the taxable acreage for 1987 decreased by 54,221 hectares or a shortfall valued at 15,851 metric tons of paddy.

Some localities have violated agricultural tax collection regulations and policies. For example, they have lowered land classification criteria, granted tax exemptions and tax reductions at variance with state regulations, and made use of cultivated areas for non-production purposes. A number of party organizations and administrative organs have not yet paid due attention to collecting agricultural taxes. Instead of helping with the collection of overdue taxes, they only want the state to abolish them.

In many localities, taxes were paid by the people, but cadres in charge of grassroots organizations put the funds at their own disposal, thus hindering tax collection efforts. Besides, proper adjustments still need to be made to improve the policy and procedures regarding collection of agricultural tax. This way, taxes can be paid in full and according to schedule and the delivery of grain turned in by peasants as part of their tax payments will not be delayed by various echelons.

10-Day Agricultural Production Reviewed
BK120913 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Summary] "According to the General Statistics Department, as of 5 April the southern provinces had harvested over 454,000 hectares of winter-spring rice, representing more than half of the cultivated area and producing an increase of nearly 21 percent over the same period last year, with the Mekong River Delta provinces alone accounting for 408,000 hectares."

Provinces that have harvested this rice with a high percentage are Kien Giang, 78 percent of the cultivated area; Hau Giang, 82 percent; Tien Giang, 86 percent; Cuu Long, 78 percent, and Long An, 73 percent. "The southern provinces have also completed soil preparation on 221,000 hectares and transplanted summer-fall rice on 46,000 hectares, an increase of 2.5 times compared with the same period last year."

Over the past 10 days, the northern provinces have concentrated manpower on weeding and tending winter-spring rice. Due to cloudy weather and humidity, this rice has developed slowly. Meanwhile, all localities throughout the country have planted subsidiary and industrial crops on only 70-73 percent of the planned area.

According to a forecast by the Meteorology Department, in the next 10 days there will be no rains in the southern provinces while the weather in the northern provinces will remain cloudy. All southern localities should take advantage of favorable weather conditions to accelerate the harvesting of winter-spring rice on the remaining area and prepare for the summer-fall crop production. Meanwhile, due to adverse weather conditions, the northern localities should inspect their ricefields regularly to detect any possible outbreak of insects and blight and observe the situation of drought so that effective countermeasures can be taken.

Binh Tri Thien Party School Named After Le Duan
BK100928 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] On 7 April the Binh Tri Thien Provincial Party Committee held a solemn ceremony to name the provincial party school after Comrade Le Duan, the late CPV general secretary, in commemoration of his 81th birthday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Vu Thang, member of the CPV Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, hailed Comrade Le Duan for his great merit to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause. Being honored to be named after Comrade Le Duan, the Binh Tri Thien Provincial Party School must uphold its responsibility in teaching and training in the present situation, combine theory with practice, and produce fully capable cadres having revolutionary ethics to serve the cause of building socialism and defending the fatherland.

Briefs

Resettlement Figures, Program

Hanoi VNA OANA April 10—In the first 3 months of this year, 42,700 persons, including 21,000 workhands, moved from densely populated areas to open new lands throughout the country. Of the figure, more than 14,000 people from northern provinces settled in the Central Highlands and sparsely populated areas in the south. The program for the second quarter of this year provided for the resettlement of 57,000 persons from over-populated areas. [Text] *[BK100845 Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT 10 Apr 88]*

Soviet Publishing Cooperation

Hanoi VNA April 7—A delegation of the Publishing Committee of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has paid a working visit to Binh Tri Thien Province at the invitation of the Provincial Party Committee and the local chapter of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association. The delegation had working sessions with the party committee and the people's committee of the province and the Thuan Hoa Publishing House. The two sides informed each other of the achievements obtained in

their cooperation in publication. With the supply of paper and the transfer of printing techniques from Byelorussia, Binh Tri Thien Province has published 10 book-titles introducing the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the local population. The two sides exchanged views on concrete measures to further their cooperation in publication in the future. A document on cooperation in publication was signed on April 5 by I. N. Lepchenko, general director of the Publishing Committee of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, and Nguyen Dinh Ngo, deputy-chairman of the Binh Tri Thien Provincial People's Committee. From 1988 on, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic will every year train 4 to 10 printing workers and supply 100 tons of paper and a number of equipment to Binh Tri Thien Province. [Text] [BK071520 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 7 Apr 88]

Footwear to USSR, GDR

Hanoi VNA April 11—In the first quarter of this year the Hanoi Leather Shoe Enterprise achieved a total output value of 46 million dong, or 9.5 percent more than

planned and 43 percent more than the corresponding period last year. Of this figure, nearly 40 million dong were earned in the production of exports, including the export of 87,000 pairs of shoe-uppers to the Soviet Union and 74,000 pairs to the German Democratic Republic. So far, the enterprise has transferred nearly 288,000 pairs of shoe-uppers to the Soviet Union, or 70,000 pairs in excess of the figure reached in the contract. This achievement has been made possible thanks to the reorganization and expansion of production lines at the enterprise and its resolve in ensuring the supply of raw materials and equipment. [Excerpt] [BK119747 Hanoi VNA in English 0720 GMT 11 Apr 88]

Malaysian Ambassador To Depart

Hanoi VNA April 11—Malaysian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Yahya Bin Bana today paid a farewell visit to Acting-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet before leaving for home for a new assignment. Vo Van Kiet had a cordial talk with the Malaysian diplomat. [Text] [BK111549 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 11 Apr 88]

Australia

Firebomb Destroys South African Diplomat's Car *BK101210 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 10 Apr 88*

[Text] Canberra, April 10 (AFP)—A car belonging to a South African diplomat was destroyed in an arson attack here early Sunday, a police spokesman said.

The AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS (AAP) quoted unidentified sources as saying that a Molotov cocktail, a milk bottle filled with petrol, had been hurled through the rear window of the car as it stood in an open garage, which was also damaged in the blaze.

The AAP report said that the car belonged to the third secretary of the South African Embassy.

The South African Embassy refused to comment on the incident, which occurred outside the diplomat's residence.

Government Turns Down Iran's Treatment Request *BK080710 Hong Kong AFP in English 0531 GMT 8 Apr 88*

[Text] Canberra, April 8 (AFP)—Australia has declined a request from Iran to allow victims of recent chemical attacks in the Gulf conflict to be treated in hospitals here, a Foreign Affairs Department spokesman said Friday.

The Iranian Government had asked Australia on March 30 to allow chemical warfare patients to be treated in Australian hospitals, the spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"The Australian Government denied their request because it does not think it would be in the best interests of the victims to be transported such a long distance for treatment," the spokesman said.

He said the chemical weapons victims would be better served in Iranian hospitals, or in those hospitals in Europe which are already accepting patients.

"There is not a great deal of specialised chemical warfare knowledge in Australia," he said.

News reports here Friday said that Iran had asked for 5,000 hospital beds in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra for soldiers injured by cyanide and mustard gases in a March 18 battle at Halabjah in northern Iraq. The soldiers' injuries included burns and respiratory illness.

Iran is understood to have contacted countries around the world with similar requests.

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden on March 24 condemned the use of chemical weapons and described the attack as shocking, saying that all Australians were horrified that chemical weapons were being used in the Gulf war.

Officials Probe Uranium Swapping, Enrichment *BK100622 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Apr 88*

[Text] Australian officials have widened their investigation into claims that uranium from Australia is being enriched into weapons grade material in Europe. Radio Australia's European correspondent, (Lee Duffield), says this alleged enrichment would be in contravention of Australia's nuclear safeguards agreement with European countries.

(Duffield) says Australian officials have received assurances from international agencies that there is no evidence to support claims of the enrichment taking place after Australian uranium was swapped with consignments from other countries. However, he says the officials are investigating the news covering the swapping of consignment with a view to the possible tightening of safeguards.

'More Sensible' Japanese Trade Policies Urged *BK050934 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0900 GMT 5 Apr 88*

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mr Hawke, has attacked Japanese steel makers by saying that they have not dealt fairly with the Australian coal industry. Mr Hawke's comments follow the Australian Government's decision to delay approval of a deal involving four New South Wales coal mining companies and Japanese steel mills. The action was taken after the government decided the increase of \$2.90 a ton was not enough, placing jobs at risk and raising the possibility of mine closures.

The prime minister said Australia would be putting its case very strongly to the Japanese concerns. He said Australia had been doing this for a considerable period of time, not just in coal but with regard to beef. Australia would continue to pressure Japan to adopt more sensible trading policies.

Airline Merger With New Zealand Shelved *BK110714 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] The federal government has shelved plans to merge the Australian international airline Qantas, the domestic carrier Australian Airlines, and Air New Zealand. However, both countries say they will look at a closer working relationship between their national airlines.

The Australian minister for transport, Mr Gareth Evans, said plans to include Australian Airlines in the merger were dropped because of difficulties. He said talks would continue on a closer relationship between Qantas and Air New Zealand, but did not speculate on a possible outcome.

Mr Evans made the statement after 3 days of talks with New Zealand's minister of state-owned enterprises, Mr Richard Prebble.

Under the original proposal, Australia would have had a 41 percent stake in the merged airline company, and New Zealand 10 percent, with the rest being sold to the public. Aviation sources said the exclusion of Australian Airlines from the merger would weaken New Zealand's enthusiasm, because Air New Zealand had long been seeking access to Australian domestic routes.

Romanian President Arrives in Canberra
BK110720 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The president of Romania, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, has arrived in Canberra on the first day of his state visit. He will hold trade talks with the prime minister, Mr Hawke, and other ministers.

The Foreign Affairs Department says it is also likely there will be separate talks with the acting foreign minister, Mr Michael Duffy.

Briefs

Coal to Indonesia

Indonesia is to import 480,000 tons of coal from Australia to supplement supplies for its largest coal-powered power plant in the financial year starting next month. The state coal company, Peram Batubara, says the Australian coal will be used to fuel two units of the Suara Layar plant in West Java which will need a total of 2.2 million tons this year. The rest would come from the South Sumatera mines of Bukit Asam, it added. The plant imported 900,000 tons of coal from Australia and China in the last financial year, but the company has no plans to buy coal from China this year. The plant originally was designed to use domestic coal but problems in developing the Bukit Asam mines in Sumatera have forced the country to import coal. [Text] [BK051002 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0900 GMT 5 Apr 88]

Fiji

President Wants Talks With Queen on UK Visit
BK110652 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Fiji's president, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, will visit London next month and hopes to speak with Queen Elizabeth about reestablishing links with the Crown.

However, Ratu Sir Penaia said in an interview with THE FIJI TIMES that it would be up to the Queen as to whether the meeting took place.

Ratu Sir Penaia was governor general until Fiji was declared a republic following last year's military coups. He was then appointed the country's first president.

Last month, the prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, had talks in London with British leaders and the queen's private secretary about restoring links with the Crown.

THE FIJI TIMES quoted Ratu Sir Penaia as saying his visit to London would be a follow-up to Ratu Mara and was in line with the mandate from the Great Council of Chiefs given last July.

The president added that a cabinet subcommittee was still studying two drafts for a proposed new constitution—one prepared by the military and one by the Constitutional Review Committee.

Employers Call On Government To End Wage Freeze
BK100624 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Fiji employers have joined the country's unions in asking the government to end its pay freeze. The director of the Fiji Employers Consultative Association, Mr (Ken Roberts), told reporters the organization favored a return to an open economy with flexibility rather than freeze determining wage levels.

Mr (Roberts) said the freeze announced last month would not help restore investor confidence in the country. The unions claim many workers have not had a pay rise since 1984 because of a previous freeze and interruptions to wage talks because of last year's coups.

Meanwhile, the price of all imported goods has soared due to a 33 percent devaluation of the Fiji dollar. The Fiji Trade Union Congress has made a submission to the Prices and Incomes Board claiming that the government has a moral responsibility to ensure that lower income earners receive substantial wage increases to offset reduced earning power caused by the devaluation. It has suggested wage increases of up to 25 percent on a sliding scale.

The Fiji Government froze wages after approving a 2.25 percent increase in 1984. Early last year, it set out guidelines under which employees could negotiate for increases of up to 5.5 percent. However, AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says most unions did not have time to begin pay talks before the May coup deposed the newly elected Bavadra government, and union activity was restricted.

END OF

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9 April 1988

